

Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Monday, January 3, 2011

APNewsBreak: ND oil patch may double production

By JAMES MacPHERSON,
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — Government and industry officials believe North Dakota's oil patch contains more than twice the amount of oil previously estimated and that the state's already record crude production will double within the decade.

If the forecast is correct, North Dakota could leapfrog in a few years from the fourth-biggest oil producing state to No. 2, trailing only Texas.

"It's a pretty rosy picture," said Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources. "We have a huge amount of drilling still in front of us."

Helms said the state currently is pumping about 350,000 barrels of crude per day and was on pace to produce about 110 million barrels in 2010, up from 79.7 million last year and more than double the amount produced less than three years ago.

Record rig activity pushed by strong crude prices and refinements in drilling technology could result in North Dakota seeing a twofold increase in production. The drilling technology alone has cut the amount of time needed to complete a well from 65 days in 2008 to about 25 days.

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LAND DOWN UNDER

Australian cities brace for flooding

In this photo provided by the Rockhampton Regional Council, water floods over the runway of the Rockhampton airport, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. Floodwaters that cover an area the size of France and Germany combined are draining slowly toward Australia's northeast coast, filling bulging rivers to overflowing and inundating at least 22 towns and cities in the cattle and fruit and vegetable farming region.

*Associated Press
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More than 1,000 dead birds fall from sky in Ark.



Major impact may be on 2012 election



WASHINGTON — The Republican agenda for the new Congress that convenes Wednesday may have a greater impact on the 2012 elections than on the lives of Americans in the next two years. Republicans promise to cut spending, roll back President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and prevent unelected bureaucrats from expanding the government's role in society through regulations that tell people what they must or can't do. Getting this agenda through the House may be easier than in the Senate, given the GOP's 241-194 majority in the House. Getting the Senate to act will be a challenge. Democrats still hold an edge there, though smaller than the one Obama had during his first two years in the White House. Even if the next two years

end in gridlock, Republicans will have built a record for the next election that they hope will demonstrate to voters that they can get it right.

House Republicans also pledge to hold tough investigations and hearings on the president's programs and policies, ending the free pass that Democratic committee chairmen gave the Obama administration the past two years.

Republicans insist they'll bring key administration officials before congressional microphones and that the public can watch the webcasts. The friendly tone of inquiry from Democratic chairmen will be replaced by Republicans demanding answers to these questions: What's the purpose of this program? Is this the best use of the taxpayers' money?

The chief Republican investigator, Rep. Darrell Issa of California, is raring to get started, and he's not alone. Issa, the incoming chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has been especially critical of what he calls waste in Obama's economic stimulus spending. "The sooner the administration figures out that the enemy is the bureaucracy and the wasteful spending, not the other party, the better

off we'll be," he told "Fox News Sunday."

Rep. Harold Rogers of Kentucky, incoming leader of the House Appropriations Committee, says he wants top officials from all major government agencies to appear and justify their spending.

The next chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Republican Fred Upton of Michigan, says he'll work to stop over-zealous government regulators. A big target for him is the Environmental Protection Agency, which is writing rules to limit greenhouse gases blamed for global warming after Obama's effort to get Congress to do it stalled in the Senate last year. "We are not going to let this administration regulate what they've been unable to legislate," he told Fox.

Upton, like Issa, will have a large investigative staff. "Republicans need to make sure they bring forward solutions, even though it may be difficult to get them accomplished," Rep.-elect Kristi Noem, R-S.D., said in an interview. She said the lesson from the November election is, "The American people will replace people if they're no longer in touch or listening."

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BEEBE, Ark. — Wildlife officials are trying to determine what caused more than 1,000 blackbirds to die and fall from the sky over an Arkansas town.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission said Saturday that it began receiving reports about the dead birds about 11:30 p.m. the previous night. The birds fell over a 1-mile area of Beebe, and an aerial survey indicated that no other dead birds were found outside of that area. Commission ornithologist Karen Rowe said the birds showed physical trauma, and she speculated that "the flock could have been hit by lightning or high-altitude

hail."

The commission said that New Year's Eve revelers shooting off fireworks in the area could have startled the birds from their roost and caused them to die from stress.

Robby King, a wildlife officer for the agency, collected about 65 dead birds, which will be sent for testing to the state Livestock and Poultry Commission lab and the National Wildlife Health Center lab in Madison, Wis. Rowe said that similar events have occurred elsewhere and that test results "usually were inconclusive." She said she doubted the birds were poisoned. □

AP NEWSBREAK

Continued from Front Page

"We are now looking at the possibility of 700,000 barrels a day and we see that coming in the next four to seven years," Helms said.

At that rate, North Dakota would surpass California and Alaska based on those states' current production, said Steven Grape, the domestic reserves project manager for the U.S. Department of Energy's information administration.

"That would be pretty amazing in my book," Grape said.

North Dakota's oil patch now accounts for about 6 percent of total U.S. crude oil production. That's up from 1 percent less than three years ago.

Federal and state estimates had pegged North Dakota's portion of the Bakken shale and underlying Three Forks-Sanish oil formations in western North Dakota at about 5 billion barrels of oil, using current horizontal drilling technology.

Helms said that estimate has more than doubled based on drilling success and current production rates.

"We're starting to see indications that we could reasonably get 11 billion barrels," Helms said.

North Dakota has about 5,300 producing oil wells. About 2,000 of those have spudded in just more than three years, aimed at the Bakken and Three Forks.

About 95 percent of rigs drilling in North Dakota are aimed at those formations, and 99 percent of them hit oil, while nine of 10 are profitable, Helms said.

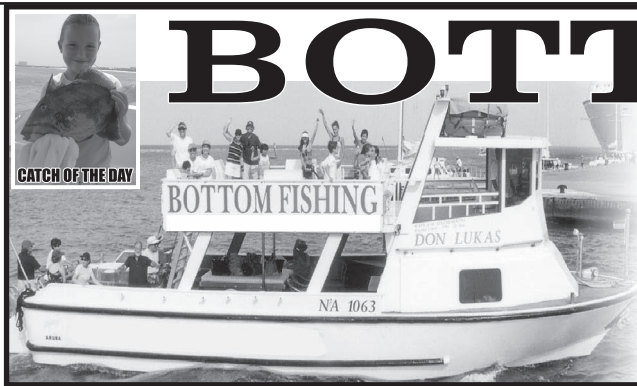
Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, said about 650 new wells were drilled in 2010. He and Helms expect up to 2,000 new wells in 2011, which would double the number of Bakken and Three Forks wells to date.

A record 168 wells were drilling in the state's oil patch last month but dipped to 156 last week, hampered by winter weather. Ness and Helms expect about 200 rigs to be drilling in 2011.

"We are going to be drilling a lot of wells in the next year and production is going to go up, barring any unforeseen problems," Ness said. "We're all pretty bullish on 2011."

North Dakota has risen from being the ninth-largest oil-producing state in 2006 because of the Bakken and the Three Forks beneath it. Helms said nothing surprises him anymore about the state's prolific oil patch.

"I'm running out of superlatives," Helms said. "We're going to have to invent some new ones." □



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US Navy to probe lewd videos shown to carrier crew

NORFOLK, Va. — A top officer aboard a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier broadcast to his crew a series of profanity-laced comedy sketches in which he uses gay slurs, mimics masturbation and opens the shower curtain on women pretending to bathe together, a newspaper reported.

The Virginian-Pilot reported in its Sunday editions that Capt. Owen Honors appeared in the videos in 2006 and 2007 while he was the USS Enterprise's second-ranking officer, and showed them across the ship on closed-circuit television. He took over as the ship's commander in May.

The Navy said it plans to investigate the videos, which it called "clearly inappropriate." "The videos were intended to be humorous skits focusing the crew's attention on specific issues such as port visits, traffic safety, water conservation, ship cleanliness, etc.," the Navy said in a statement to the newspaper. Navy Cmdr. Chris Sims said in a statement sent to The Associated Press that the videos "were not acceptable then and are not acceptable in today's Navy."

A phone listing for Honors was not immediately available. He is a 1983 alumnus of the U.S. Naval Academy and was a naval aviator before holding command. He attended the U.S. Naval Fighter Weapons School, also known as Top Gun.

Commanding officers and enlisted chiefs "are charged to lead by example and are held accountable for setting the proper tone and upholding the standards of honor, courage and commitment that we expect Sailors to exemplify," Sims said in the statement. In a video obtained by the

newspaper and posted on its website, Honors addresses the camera and introduces a series of several lewd video clips, which he acknowledges have drawn complaints.

"As usual, the admiral and the captain have no idea about the contents of the video or movie this evening, and they should not be held accountable in any judicial setting," Honors says on the video. "Over the years I've gotten several complaints about inappropriate material during these videos, never to me personally but, gutlessly, through other channels."

During this introduction, he also uses a derogatory term for gays.

Next comes a sequence of what appear to be outtakes in which Honors and others curse. Honors observes that comedians who performed on the ship always got laughs when they used "the f-bomb." After that, Honors

and others are shown making hand motions that mimic masturbation.

Honors segues to the next segment by saying, "Finally let's get to my favorite topic ... chicks in the shower." Next are shown clips of pairs of women and a pair of men pretending to shower together. No nudity is shown, but the men's and women's bare shoulders imply they are nude.

It's not immediately clear where the ship was located when the videos were produced. The Enterprise served a six-month deployment in support of the war in Iraq in 2006 and another six-month deployment to the Persian Gulf in 2007.

Commissioned in 1961, it's the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. It is scheduled to sail two more deployments before it is decommissioned in 2013. It can carry a crew of more than 5,800. □



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Deputy, suspect dead in Ohio trailer park standoff



SPRINGFIELD, Ohio — It began with a sheriff's deputy investigating a report of gunfire at a trailer park. By the time it was over, the deputy and the suspected shooter were dead, and a police officer was wounded in a gunbattle with the suspect.

"This is the worst day of my entire law enforcement career," said Clark County Sheriff Gene Kelly, who has been sheriff for 24 years. Deputy Suzanne Hopper was shot Saturday as she tried to

photograph a footprint in the Enon Beach mobile-home park in western Ohio, Kelly said. Hopper, who was married last year and had two children, didn't have the opportunity to return fire or take cover, he said.

Police officers were trying to talk to the shooting suspect when he fired on them from inside a trailer, and a German Township officer was wounded in an exchange of gunfire, Kelly said. There were "many, many, many"

shots fired by the suspect and eight officers, he said.

The wounded officer, Jeremy Blum, was hospitalized in fair condition, a hospital supervisor said. Authorities were still investigating and weren't ready to say whether police gunfire killed the suspect, whose identity wasn't released, Kelly said. It's possible the suspect, who had "a history" with the sheriff's office, killed himself, he said. Enon Beach resident Angelina Inman said she looked out of her trailer at the park, which sits near a highway, to see the deputy lying on the ground. She watched as another officer tried to reach her body.

"He was itching to get her," Inman said. "He kept radioing in, can he please get her, and he was told no because it wasn't secure. You could see that male sheriff crying he wanted to get her, he wanted to get her bad."

Sgt. Dustin White had accompanied Hopper to the trailer park, which is just southwest of Springfield and about 50 miles west of Columbus, and was interviewing a family whose trailer had been shot at when

he heard Hopper scream, Kelly said.

"We believed we had an active shooter, which we did, and we wanted to get her some medical attention, but we didn't want to get anyone else shot," the sheriff said.

Enon Beach acts as a seasonal campground with some summer-only residents and others who live there year-round. A portion of Interstate 70 was closed twice for a total of about an hour because the trailer park is so close to the roadway, Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Gary Lewis said.

A girl who lives in the trailer park said she knew the shooting suspect and he had a temper.

"He was a quiet person, but if you made him mad he wasn't very pleasant," 15-year-old Chelsea Bagley said.

Her mother's boyfriend, John Burkhardt, said he heard the shots fired in the neighborhood. Police then arrived, Burkhardt said, and for several minutes authorities asked the suspect over a loud speaker to come out and surrender.

"They give him 25 chances to walk out of there," Burkhardt

said. "They were begging him to come out, but he wouldn't come out."

Shortly after, Burkhardt said, authorities opened fire on the man's trailer.

"All hell broke loose," he said. Police threw smoke grenades before storming the trailer and finding the suspect dead, Kelly said.

He said he had hired Hopper in 1999 and had known her since the police academy.

Hopper, 40, was known for her dedication to the job and adherence to keeping herself safe, Kelly said. The former officer of the year was wearing a protective vest Saturday, but it didn't shield her from the gunfire that killed her, he said.

"If she would have known there was a suspect in that trailer she'd have never walked that way without additional units and without taking cover," Kelly said.

Hopper once went six straight years without calling in sick and often put on charity events for the Special Olympics and other causes, Kelly said.

"Her personnel file is filled with accolades and commendations and always service before self," he said. □

Universal Orlando ride evacuated after fire

ORLANDO, Fla. — An island ride at Universal Orlando Resort was evacuated Saturday after a fire engulfed a roof structure under which the ride carries visitors. No major injuries were reported.

Park spokesman Tom Schroder said an employee noticed smoke rising from Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls, a log float ride at Universal's Islands of Adventure, around 5 p.m. Saturday. The theme park is part of the resort, which also includes Universal Studios. Schroder said staff shut down the ride and

evacuated visitors from the surrounding area. He said "our guests were on the ride," but that he did not know whether any passengers were carried under the roof when it was on fire.

"That type of material puts out a lot of black smoke," Orlando Deputy Fire Chief Greg Hoggatt told the Orlando Sentinel.

About 40 firefighters responded to the fire, which was brought under control in about a half-hour. Hoggatt told the newspaper that investigators were looking into whether an



electrical problem triggered the blaze.

The fire department referred phone calls late Saturday to Universal Orlando.

It was unclear how many people had to be evacuated. Schroder said the Orlando fire department assisted a

small number of visitors who said they had inhaled smoke.

The ride remains shut down while the blaze is under investigation. Schroder said he did not have a damage estimate or know when the ride would reopen.

"We're still reviewing that. Too soon (to say) tonight," he said late Saturday.

But he said the area known as Toon Lagoon, which includes the log float ride, reopened Saturday evening. The theme park itself also remains open. □



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In this photo provided by CBS incoming chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., talks on CBS's 'Face the Nation' in Washington Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. The chief Republican investigator, Issa has been especially critical of what he calls waste in Obama's economic stimulus spending. « Read less (AP Photo)

2012 ELECTION

Continued from Page A2

Noem benefited from that view, defeating Democratic Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin. Noem has risen to the forefront of the freshman class; she was chosen to serve in the GOP leadership. In the Senate, there's a chance the Democrats will replace Republicans as the party of "no," assuming the House GOP passes much of its agenda. Democrats will control the Senate 51-47

with two independents, and only need 41 votes to block initiatives that arrive from the House. Among the reasons that the Republican agenda will likely have a bigger impact on the next election than on the day-to-day lives of most Americans are:

Much of the government spending has been politically untouchable. About 60 percent goes for entitlement programs, including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. The nation also is paying for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and major reconstruction projects in those countries. Both parties have considered it politically foolish to mess with Medicare and Social Security. Also, Republicans don't have a clean record as budget cutters. "Spending restraint on the Republican side is a theory yet to be proven," said Robert Bixby, executive director of the budget-watching Concord Coalition. He noted that Democratic President Bill Clinton's budget surplus turned into deficit under Republican George W. Bush. Obama may be more willing to compromise with Republicans than in his first two years, but he will fight repealing the health care law. Senate Democrats will almost certainly stop major revisions. If for some reason they don't, Obama will use his veto to

stop them.

Republican attempts to overturn regulations on issues such as global warming also could falter in the Senate. When the EPA announced just before Christmas that it planned to set greenhouse gas emissions standards for power plants and oil refineries, Upton said, "We will not allow the administration to regulate what they have been unable to legislate." Senate Democrats may have a different view. Many eyes in the new session will focus on Issa, who will have subpoena power and can investigate any government program.

Issa has played good cop and bad cop. He criticized Obama's most important programs, including the economic stimulus. But less than a month after the Republicans won big in November, he had a private peace meeting with Vice President Joe Biden. Neither is shy about entering a political brawl, but initially they have pledged to work together against waste and for openness in tracking government spending. Issa has not discouraged articles suggesting he will send the administration subpoenas by the trainload. But he also wants to give subpoena power to nonpolitical government watchdogs inspectors general and let them use that authority

to uncover fraud, waste and abuse. With a degree of political cover, Issa could then use those findings to conduct his own investigations.

If the peace pact between Biden and Issa holds, there are other issues where the Obama administration and congressional Republicans can compromise as they did on extending Bush-era tax cuts for all, coupled with an extension of unemployment benefits sought by the president.

The incoming House Ways and Means Committee chairman, Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, favors overhauling tax laws. So does Obama.

"The tax code is longer than the Bible, but without the happy ending," Camp has said. "What we need is a comprehensive reform of the tax code that expands the tax base and lowers rates by being fairer, simpler and conducive to growth." That's not too far, in theory, from

Obama's desire to "simplify confusing provisions in the tax code, encouraging saving and creating a tax system that works for all Americans." The challenge will be in reaching agreement on the details.

There could be times when Obama will be closer to Republicans than to liberal Democrats, who were furious that Obama agreed to continue tax cuts for the wealthy and to levy inheritance taxes only on the very richest Americans.

Maryland Rep. Steny Hoyer, who is being replaced as the House's majority leader, was asked by a reporter near the end of the last Congress how much trust exists between Obama and liberals.

"On a scale of one to 10 I'm not going to give you how much," he said. "As you know, I'm not willing to kind of create or affirm a breach between the White House and the Congress. I think there's always tension and there should be." □

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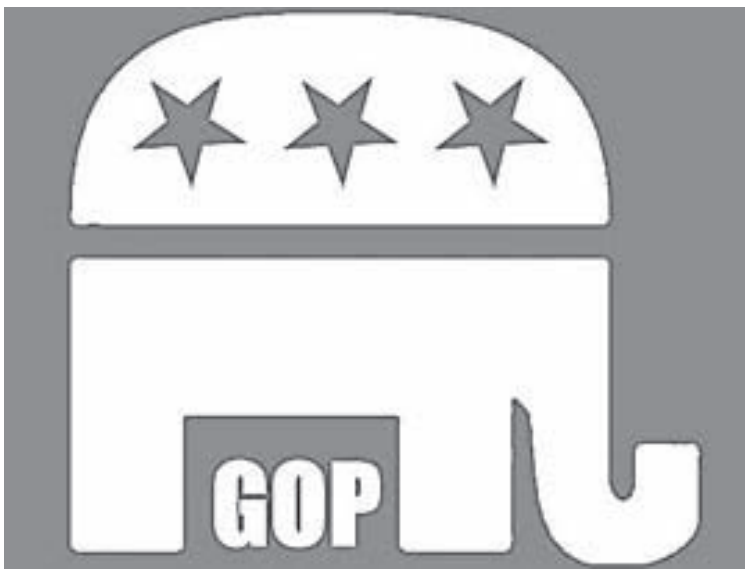
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GOP-led House plans to fight Obama pollution plan

WASHINGTON — The incoming chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee is promising a fight over the Obama administration's new approach on limiting greenhouse gas emissions. Congress failed last year to pass limits and let companies buy and sell pollution permits.

That system was known as "cap and trade" but to Republicans it was "cap and tax" because they said it would raise energy prices.

The administration now say it'll act on its own to clamp down on power plant and oil refinery greenhouse emissions by developing new standards over the next year.

But Michigan Rep. Fred Upton tells "Fox News Sunday" that the GOP-led House won't "let this administration regulate what they've been unable to legislate." He says Republicans want to tackle the problem "in a reasonable way." □

4 children, 1 man killed in Seattle suburb fire

REDMOND, Wash. — The mother of four young children could only watch in horror as a fire early New Year's day swept through her Redmond apartment, killing the children and a 32-year-old man, officials and neighbors said.

"She couldn't speak she was just hysterically screaming," said neighbor Jared Wilson, who lives on the building's third floor.

He said the woman had been able to escape the two-bedroom ground-floor apartment and but was powerless to do anything when the flames engulfed her home. All four children were 10 or younger, fire officials said.

No other injuries were reported and the residents

of all 12 apartments in the three-story wooden building were evacuated and found temporary housing.

The 30-year-old woman was taken to a hospital where she was reported in stable condition, said Fire Battalion Chief Ed Carolan.

The names of the victims and the relationship between the man and woman were not immediately available.

Police spokesman Officer Matt Peringer said investigators are returning to the scene Sunday to try to determine the cause of the blaze.

Chris Champoux and his wife were sleeping in their apartment in the building across a driveway from the units that burned.

"The heat actually woke my

wife up," he said. "It was an inferno very horrific."

Crews from six fire departments responded, and investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Washington State Patrol and a Seattle Fire Department canine arson detection unit were at the scene, though there were no immediate signs it was intentionally set, Peringer said.

Carolan said the fire was reported around 2:30 a.m. at the Sammamish Ridge Apartments and quickly burned the two units above it. All three were heavily damaged and the apartments next to them have smoke damage, he said.

Wilson said only about 30 seconds elapsed from the



time he first heard shouting until his apartment was surrounded by heavy smoke and he was forced to flee. As he ran down the stairwell, he saw the woman, whose children he had often seen playing, screaming outside the building.

Wilson said he and another resident grabbed a fire extinguisher and the two tried to enter the smoke-filled apartment. "At that point, the whole place just went up" and they were forced away by the flames.

"It's tough thinking about the fact that she lost her whole family," Wilson said

The building is one of a

complex of three-story buildings in a wooded area just northwest of downtown Redmond. It is about two miles north of the Microsoft Corp. campus and about 12 miles east of Seattle.

The buildings have smoke detectors but not sprinklers, which weren't required when the complex was built in the mid-1980s, Peringer said.

"It is an awful tragedy," said Teresa Lunsford, resident manager of the complex.

According to Sammamish Ridge's website, it is managed by Pan Pacific Properties, a Seattle company that has nine apartment complexes in the Seattle area. □

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Senior citizens in San Nicolas love
De Suikertuin's `oliebollen'



The inhabitants of the senior citizens' home in San Nicolas loved their surprise, Dutch traditional `oliebollen', last Friday. Just as the staff and ambulatory elderly raised their glasses to welcome the new year and say goodbye to the old, the oliebollen arrived. Chef Marjerie of De Suikertuin Restaurant had been frying them during the morning, so they were still fragrant and hot when they were doled out. Maris Stella's Flora de Bie wished her colleagues and the elderly a very happy 2011 before the group outside raised their oliebollen with a cheer. The oliebollen were a joint donation from De Suikertuin Restaurant in the Wilhelminastraat and Beauty and the Beast - fantasy in jewelry. □



La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club and Tropicana Resort

Sending 2010 Out With a Bang

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Sharing the Joy

PwC Hosts its Traditional Year End Celebration



Oranjestad — On Thursday, one day ahead of New Year's Eve, PwC put on its traditional parking lot celebration with fireworks, music and dancing, over cocktails, olie bollen and hors d'oeuvres.

The party took off in an intimate format as all PwC associates congregated early in the afternoon to listen to Grupo Di Betico, who delivered a stellar performance. The private party later transformed into a public affair, as clients and friends of the firm arrived to join the festivities, with Orquestra Search.

The fun client appreciation happening celebrated another year of opportunities as PwC helped the

local business community work smarter, navigate the risks and challenges, and pull itself ahead of competitors.

Pictured here PwC, sharing the joys and welcoming 2011



Sending 2010 Out With a Bang

La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club Teams Up with the Tropicana Resort



Eagle Beach – The two Eagle Beach Resorts teamed up to provide 2010 with a thunderous escort out, while warmly welcoming the new year in.

La Cabana Beach Resort & Racquet Club General Manager Joe Najjar was on hand to watch Tropicana Resort General Manager Brian Stedford put a match to the giant pagara, as millions of stringed-together Chinese firecrackers popped in celebration of the year's end. The smoke, designed to ward evil spirits off, cleansed the garden area between the two properties, marking a new era of collaboration and shared opportunities.

The pagara, stated Joe Najjar was a joint venture of the two resorts who call the beautiful Eagle Beach home. The Tropicana Resort recently unveiled its name, flying banners over the hotel façade once called the Aruban Resort & Casino. □



Amazonia & Aqua Grill Welcomed the New Year in, on Friday

Palm Beach – Members of management and employees of Amazonia Churrascaria and Aqua Grill Restaurant watched Chef Victor and Restaurant Manager Michael Ras, unbox and unfurl long strings of traffic-stopping firecrackers, then light the fuse and step back, allowing many millions of shells pop and dance in celebration of old year - new year transition. Restaurant staffers also enjoyed a toast of champagne, and a picture opportunity, just before opening the doors to what is traditionally one of the busiest nights of the year. Pictured here the good luck smoke as it engulfs the street for a moment, out with the old, in with the new! □





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To Express Yourself. We put our selves into situations where we must find a way to express our individuality in the hologram. Every one of us is unique and different, and we each express our selves differently. Express your self in any way you are moved to in the moment.

To Challenge yourself. We set up challenges to overcome specifically designed to steer us in a certain emotional direction. Challenge helps us grow in specific ways. Without challenge, we become bored, complacent and spoiled.

To Have Fun. We, the players in the game, forget that it's a game. We fooled ourselves so well, we take everything totally seriously. We've convinced our selves that we're powerless, and having fun is not a luxury that the powerless can afford. Our expanded selves exist in a constant state of Pure Joy. When we laugh and have fun, we experience a tiny sensation of Pure Joy. If we would learn to just have fun, we wouldn't hurt our selves.

All in your precisely unique ways.

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you chose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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Economic Predictions for 2011

WASHINGTON, DC – 2010 didn't quite bring the economic recovery, and attendant jobs, many were hoping for. How about 2011? The Financial Times is only one of the publications publishing predictions like mad. Here's a roundup of some of the bets for the coming year in business and the global economy:

U.S. House Prices Will Continue to Fall Gary Shilling says they'll "drop another 20%." Bill McBride of CalculatedRisk puts it at more like 5-10%, with Jan Hatzius of Goldman Sachs, McBride points out, thinking it will be more like 5%. Reuters's Felix Salmon makes a broader prediction:

I wouldn't be at all surprised to see the US homeownership rate fall a lot in coming years, back down below even its long-term mean around 64%. And if that happens, prices both to rent and to buy--are almost certain to fall from current levels.

Europe: the Euro Will Survive Both Martin Wolf and Wolfgang Münchau, in separate pieces for the Financial Times, think the euro will outlast the year. Wolf says "the will of members to keep the eurozone functioning has proved strong enough to prevent an outright default, let alone a departure from the currency union." He thinks "the euro will surely survive, even in the long run, if in a diminished form, among the economies that are able to live with Germany." Münchau wonders "in what condition" the currency will survive, predicting "more funding crises," as well as "public backlash against ... austerity

programs." Gideon Rachman, in fact, thinks these programs may cause significant "social unrest."

China Will Remain Strong "There is no China bubble, so it cannot pop," declares James Kyng at the Financial Times.

WikiLeaks Will Face Competition from 'Copcats' Says James Crabtree: "Just as Napster pioneered music downloading but was soon surpassed, in the next year one of WikiLeaks' imitators will overtake it."

'Seven Bets for a Better Year for Business in 2011' This one's from the Financial Times' John Gapper. The bets include that the Oscar will go to "a big-budget film of the sort Hollywood depends on," perhaps to Inception instead of The King's Speech; "private stock exchanges will be hit by a scandal," so-called "Big Pharma" will drop "early-stage research" on one of their expensive and unproductive "potential blockbusters,"; and "China will overtake Silicon Valley in green energy." Particularly interesting for Americans: "The US will make a profit from AIG."

Don't Celebrate Just Yet Analyst David Rosenberg is pretty gloomy in his 2011 summary, reported at Business Insider by Leah Goldman and Gus Lubin. He thinks, for starters, the enthusiasm on U.S. equity is a little much. "In my view," he writes more broadly, "real GDP growth in the U.S.A. is set to slow from around 3% in 2010 to 2% in 2011, or possibly even lower." He sees rough roads ahead in China and Europe, too. □

Britain tries on a big heart in times of little cash

In Britain, necessity has become the mother of good intentions.

With a fiscal crisis requiring radical cuts in government, Prime Minister David Cameron has advanced a radical remake of society. In a paper unveiled Dec. 26, his coalition laid out a vision to rally more people to donate time, money, and skills to community work and to charities.

It's a bold and untested idea, being watching closely in the equally budget-challenged United States, despite a strong American tradition of volunteering and giving. Can social action become the social norm and even a substitute for many government services?

Critics of Mr. Cameron's "big society" agenda which includes pushing power to local governments – doubt if public generosity can be ginned up quickly, or at all, before massive budget cuts hit in a few months. Only 8 percent of people account for about half of all giving in the

UK.

But an equal cynicism has set in about the cold, distant, and often ineffective nature of a central government dispensing services.

"Too many people thought, 'I've paid my taxes the state will look after everything,' " said the prime minister, a Conservative who took office last spring in a coalition government.

"But citizenship isn't a transaction in which you put your taxes in and get your services out. It's a relationship you're part of something bigger than you."

The proposals in his so-called Giving Green Paper (a longer "white paper" is due in the spring) are certainly innovative, to say the least. Here are a few:

Let charities ask for a small donation every time someone uses a cash machine, uses a credit/debit card, or requests a government service such as a license.

Use an eBay-style website to trade one's time

"microvolunteering" for a comparable service by someone else.

Train 5,000 community organizers to build up neighborhood groups for social action.

Set up a "national community service" for 16-year-olds to hone their skills through volunteering.

Spend government money to match private donations to charities.

Honor particularly big givers on national TV such as lottery winners who give away their money thus inspiring others to contribute.

Provide incentives for businesses to let employees volunteer for good causes.

And the list goes on, like a catalog of social experiments. Polls show people in the United Kingdom are more inclined to give money than their time to good causes (three-quarters give to charity while only about a quarter volunteer). Unfortunately, many charities are dependent on government for money. □

Probe of Egypt church bomb focuses on local group

HAMZA HENDAWI
MAGGIE MICHAEL

Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP) — Egyptian police are focusing their investigation into the New Year's suicide bombing of a church on a group of Islamic hard-liners inspired by al-Qaida and based in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria where the attack killed 21 people, security officials said Sunday. The bombing touched off riots and protests by Egypt's Christian minority, who feel they are targeted and discriminated against and do not get adequate protection from authorities. There were signs of beefed up security outside churches nationwide and dozens returned to pray Sunday in the bombed, blood-spattered Saints Church — many of them sobbing, screaming in anger and slapping themselves in grief. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack on Coptic Christians leaving a midnight Mass about a half hour into the new year Saturday, the worst attack on Egyptian Christians in a decade. In the immediate aftermath, President Hosni Mubarak blamed foreigners and the Alexandria governor accused al-Qaida, pointing to threats against Christians by the terror network's branch in Iraq. But on Sunday, security officials said police are looking at the possibility that homegrown Islamic extremists were behind it, and perhaps were inspired by al-Qaida though not directly under foreign command. Investigators were also examining lists of air passengers who arrived recently in Egypt from Iraq because al-Qaida in Iraq threatened Christians in both countries. They said they are looking for any evidence of an al-Qaida financier or organizer who may have visited Egypt to recruit the bomber and his support team from local militants. Investigators were also examining two heads found at the site on suspicion that at least one was the

bomber's, state news agency MENA reported. The crime lab investigation found the explosives used were locally made and were filled with nails and ball bearings to maximize the number of casualties.

Egypt's government has long insisted that al-Qaida does not have a significant presence in the country, and it has never been conclusively linked to any attacks here.

Egypt does, however, have a rising movement of Islamic hard-liners who, while they do not advocate violence, adhere to an ideology similar in other ways to al-Qaida. There have been fears they could be further radicalized by sectarian tensions. The hard-liners, known as Salafis, have a large and active presence in Alexandria.

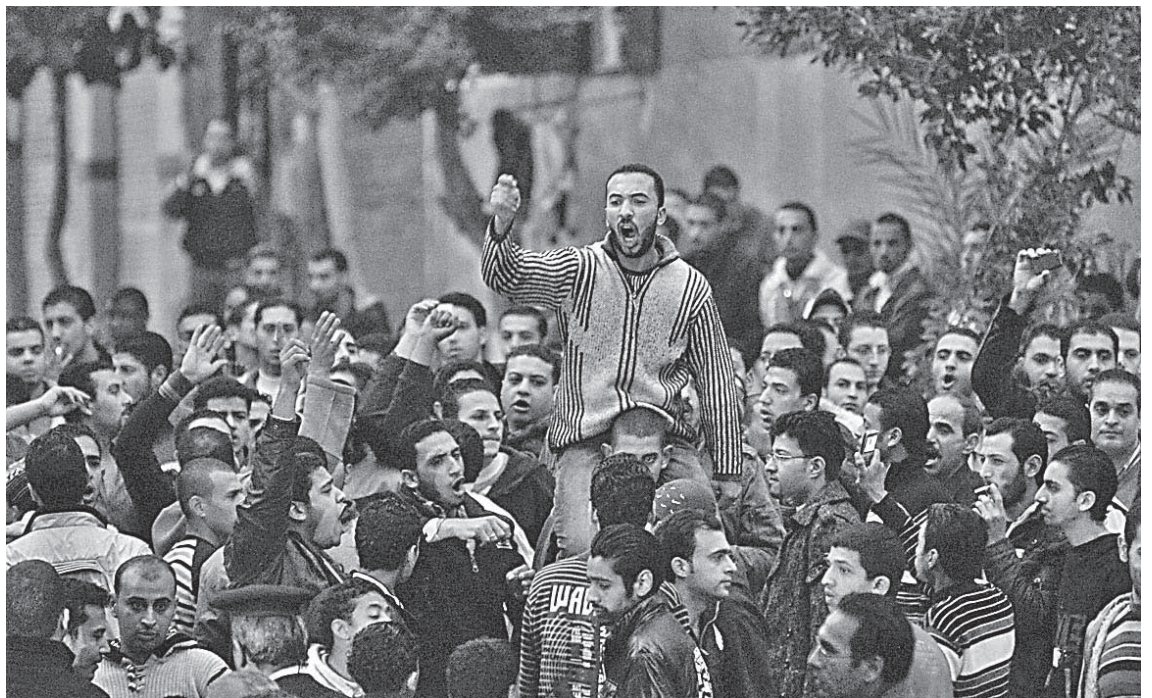
The security officials cautioned, however, that the attackers may not necessarily have come from the ranks of the Salafis but more likely came from one of a number of small, fringe groups that are even more radical.

Alexandria, a famed city of antiquity which a century ago was home to a mix of Muslims, Christians, Jews and foreigners, has become a stronghold for Islamic hard-liners in the past decade. Stabbings at three Alexandria churches in 2006 sparked three days of Muslim-Christian riots that left at least four dead.

The security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation has not yet been completed, also said 25 people have been detained for questioning, but none of them was thought to be linked to the attack.

They said the 25 were mostly owners of cars parked outside the church at the time, storekeepers and Muslim neighbors known to be Islamic fundamentalists.

Suspicion for the attack immediately fell on al-Qaida after the terror group's branch in Iraq vowed to attack Christians in Iraq and Egypt over the cases of two Egyptian Christian women who sought to convert to Islam. The women, who were married to



About 200 Coptic Christians, mostly youths, stage a noisy protest at dusk near the bombed church, before being dispersed by riot police firing tear gas in Alexandria, Egypt Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. The police investigation into the New Year's church bombing that killed 21 people is focusing on a local group of Islamic hard-liners inspired by al-Qaida, Egyptian security officials said Sunday.

Associated Press

priests in the Coptic Orthodox Church, were prohibited from divorcing their husbands and sought to convert as a way out.

The women have since been secluded by the Coptic Church, prompting Islamic hard-liners in Egypt to accuse the Church of imprisoning them and forcing them to renounce Islam. The Church denies the allegation.

Al-Qaida in Iraq cited the Egyptian women in a claim of responsibility for the attack on a Baghdad church in October that killed 68 people. The group has also threatened Egypt's Coptic Orthodox Christian community over the two cases and the church attacked was an Orthodox Coptic church.

The attack was dramatically different from past violence against Christians, which included shootings but not serious bombings, much less suicide attacks. Christians, mainly Orthodox Copts, make up about 10 percent of Egypt's mainly Muslim population of nearly 80 million.

The attack only served to heighten tensions that have been growing in recent years between Christians and Muslims.

Those tensions were on display in the center of the capital Cairo on Sunday, where about 2,000 riot police were deployed outside the

city's landmark TV and radio building as scores of protesters carrying large wooden crosses marched nearby but never made it to the building.

Christians staged demonstrations in at least three cities to protest what they see as the government's failure to protect their community, but police moved quickly to break

up the gatherings.

In Alexandria, about 500 Christians staged a noisy protest near the bombed church. Riot police outnumbered them by at least two to one and prevented them from moving elsewhere. Police arrested and beat up three demonstrators, according to witnesses. □

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Australian city of Brisbane braces for flooding

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Military planes were flying food and other supplies toward a major city being slowly swamped in Australia's flood emergency on Monday, and police were increasing patrols in evacuated regions amid reports of looting.

Floodwaters that cover an area the size of France and Germany combined are draining slowly toward Australia's northeast coast, filling bulging rivers to overflowing and inundating at least 22 towns and cities in the cattle and fruit and vegetable farming region.

A 41-year-old woman who was swept to her death in front of her family on Saturday in Burketown, in hardest-hit Queensland state, was the only confirmed victim so far of the flood crisis, which began building shortly before Christmas after days of drenching tropical rain. Searches were under way for two other people, men in separate locations in Queensland, who were missing after being last seen in the floodwaters.

State authorities say about 200,000 people have been affected by the floods, and Prime Minister Julia Gillard on Monday extended emergency relief to those affected, including low-interest loans to farmers to begin cleaning up and get their businesses running again.

"This is a major natural disaster and recovery will take a significant amount of time," Gillard said in a statement.

In Rockhampton, a coastal city of about 75,000 people, waters from the still-swelling Fitzroy River closed the airport, cut the main highway leading to the state capital of Brisbane, and sent scores of families to abandon their homes for relief centers set up on high ground. Authorities warned the Fitzroy would continue rising until late Tuesday or early Wednesday local time.

Officials have been evacuating Rockhampton residents for days. Mayor Brad Carter warned about 40 percent of the city could be affected by the surging waters, and residents could be forced to



This image made from AuBC video via Associated Press Television News shows a flooded street in Rockhampton, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. Days of pounding rain last week left much of northeastern Australia swamped by a sea of muddy water, with flooding affecting about 200,000 people in an area larger than France and Germany combined.

Insurgent attacks kill 4 Iraqi security officers

MAZIN YAHYA

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Insurgents killed four members of Iraq's security forces and a city engineer in separate incidents across the Iraqi capital Sunday evening, officials said.

The similar nature of the attacks — all were shootings by assailants armed with silencers — and the fact that they all occurred within less than an hour of each other suggested a coordinated campaign to target security officials and government workers. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Iraqi police and hospital officials said gunmen killed an off-duty traffic policeman in a drive-by shooting in eastern Baghdad around 8 p.m., and shot dead an Iraqi army colonel in his car downtown.

Assailants killed two more policemen in separate incidents later Sunday in Baghdad, as well as a city engineer northeast of the capital.

Gunmen also targeted a police colonel driving in northern Baghdad, but he escaped with severe wounds and was taken to the hospital.

Insurgents in Iraq frequently target the country's security forces and government employees for a variety of reasons, including retribution or to intimidate others from joining the security services.

Earlier Sunday, gunmen killed a lawyer in eastern Baghdad, police and hospital officials said. A police officer traveling

wait at least two weeks before returning home.

Residents emptied supermarket shelves of food and bottled water in recent

days as they stocked up to reduce the need to get around in the waist-deep waters.

Queensland's Deputy Police Commissioner and State



Zaher Sami, 42, inspects his damaged car after a bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, Dec. 31, 2010. Militants in Iraq have attacked at least four Christian homes with a combination of grenades and bombs, killing and wounding a few people and sending fear into the country's already terrified tiny Christian community, police said.

with the lawyer was also wounded. The lawyer worked with a foundation that helped political prisoners who suffered under Saddam Hussein's regime.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to brief the media.

December was the least deadly month of the least deadly year in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003. According to Iraqi government data obtained by the AP, 151 people were killed in insurgents attacks in December, the lowest monthly toll of the year.

The casualty data is compiled by the interior, health and defense ministries and includes civilians as well as Iraqi security forces. □

Associated Press

Disaster Coordinator Ian Stewart said military planes would be used Monday to resupply Rockhampton, flying supplies to towns farther north that would then be trucked in to the city.

Stewart said police had increased their patrols of flooded towns — television footage and news photographs showed uniformed officers wading thigh-deep through floodwaters — and had not confirmed any reports of looting.

Some residents, however, said cars and homes had been broken into and items stolen. Rockhampton resident Tanya Hallam said she was woken up by dogs barking in the street before dawn and found her car broken into when she went to investigate.

"But they didn't just do our car — they did nine in total in the street. So it's disheartening that people sink to that level," Hallam told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The wet weather that triggered the flooding has eased, and water levels were dropping in some towns. But officials said about 1,000 people were living in evacuation centers across Queensland, and it may be a month before the floodwaters dry up completely. □

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APNewsBreak: Mexico plans immigration shake-up

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO,

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico plans a shake-up of its corruption-ridden immigration institute, officials said, after a year that saw some of the worst atrocities against illegal migrants trekking through the country — including the mass slaughter of 72 Central and South Americans trying to reach the United States.

The dismissals early this week will include several top directors of the National Institute for Migration, according to two government officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision has not been made public.

The government of President Felipe Calderon also plans to reform practices that have led to omissions, oversights and acts of corruption, though the officials didn't provide details. The hardships migrants face in Mexico have long been a source of discomfort for a country that lobbies hard for better treatment of its own immigrants in the United States.

The shake-up comes less than two weeks after El Salvador reported the kidnapping of 50 migrants from a train in the southern Mexican state of

Oaxaca.

Mexico angered its Central American neighbors by initially denying the Dec. 16 abduction took place, but now says it is investigating and has several migrants who escaped in protective custody. El Salvador later denounced a second kidnapping in Oaxaca: nine migrants who apparently were taken from a train Dec. 22. Five escaped and reported the kidnapping and one was killed trying to flee, the Salvadoran Foreign Relations Department said in a statement.

The bodies of 72 migrants were found Aug. 24 at a ranch about 100 miles south of the U.S. border they were trying to reach. Authorities have said the migrants were killed by the Zetas drug gang after refusing to work as traffickers. The Zetas have also been linked to the disappearance of the 50.

In September, Cecilia Romero resigned as director of the institute in the wake of the massacre and was replaced by the current director, Salvador Beltran del Rio.

The two officials said the shake-up is not a response to the kidnappings but to a government review that found widespread incompetence within the institute, which runs migrant detention centers and

is in charge of deportations. They declined to say how many of the institute's 5,000 employees would be replaced. Migrants who have long faced abuse — often at the hands of Mexican police or immigration officials who have been caught taking bribes from smugglers, shaking down migrants or even handing them to kidnappers.

In the central state of Hidalgo, the government officials said, nine Honduran migrants escaped a detention center on Dec. 21 by smashing a hole through a wall. Staff at the center claimed to have heard nothing, and did not report the escape for hours. The supervisor on duty at the time was fired.

In the northern state of Tamaulipas, immigration agents have tried to turn away migrants brought to detention centers by the army, the government officials said. The immigration agents claimed to have received deaths threats and warnings from drug cartels not to accept any more migrants, an apparent tactic by drug traffickers to have more would-be victims on the streets. Under Mexican law, the agents are required to take the migrants in.

Earlier this year, two immigration officials were



Members of "Somos un Pueblo Unido" wear t-shirts to call attention to immigrant issues during the inauguration of Gov. Susana Martinez at the Plaza in Santa Fe, N.M. on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

Associated Press

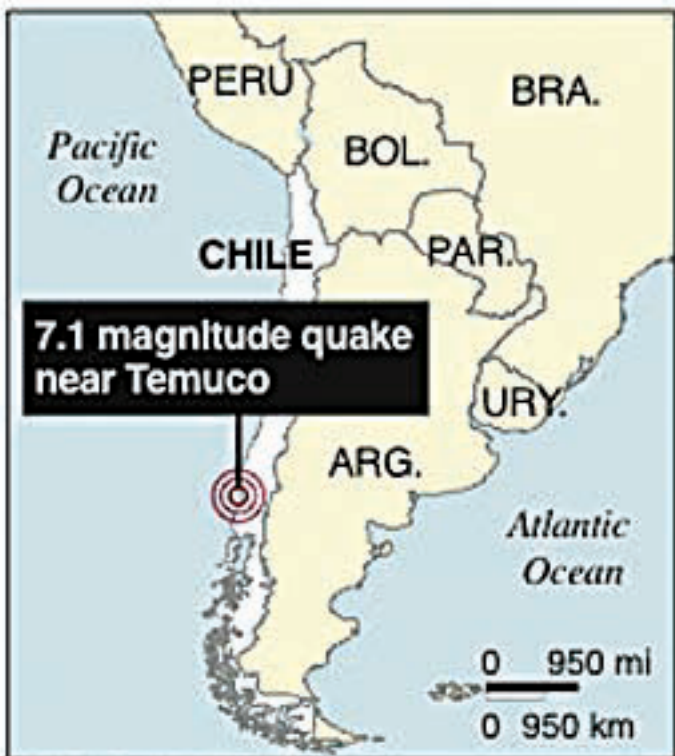
arrested for smuggling Chinese migrants, and a detention center in Mexico City was found to be a drug-trafficking hotbed.

One of the worst cases came in 2007 when 12 Central Americans nearly suffocated in a truck where they were being held by immigrant agents demanding a bribe. The intrusion of drug cartels has made the journey to the U.S. border even more dangerous. The Zetas, a vicious cartel with reach into Central America, has increasingly controlled migrant-smuggling routes in Mexico, extorting smugglers and kidnapping

migrants for ransom or to use them as forced recruits.

A Roman Catholic priest who runs a migrant shelter in Oaxaca and first reported the Dec. 16 kidnapping said he has information that the Zetas were also involved in that assault. Calderon's government already has taken several steps to try to improve the plight of migrants, including signing accords with other countries to ensure safe deportations, revamping detention centers and training immigration agents in human rights. Mexico has also passed a law stating that it is not a crime to be in the country illegally. □

Magnitude-7.1 earthquake shakes southern Chile



SOURCES: ESRI; USGS

AP

EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)

— A magnitude-7.1 earthquake shook southern Chile on Sunday, prompting tens of thousands to flee the coast for higher ground

amid fears it could generate a tsunami like the one that ravaged the area last year.

There were no reports of deaths or damage, and Vicente Nunez, head of the National Emergency Office, said no tsunami

alert was issued.

“There has been no harm to people, no harm to property,” Nunez said. “We will continue monitoring.”

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii also said a destructive Pacific Ocean-wide tsunami was not expected.

President Sebastian Pinera urged calm in an address to the nation. “There was an exercise of self-evacuation, which is exactly what we have asked people to do,” Pinera said. “Fortunately we do not have to lament accidents or losses of life.”

Some cell-phone communications and electrical power were knocked out in the Araucania region where the

quake was centered, 370 miles south-southwest of the capital, Santiago.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter was about 45 miles away from the provincial capital of Temuco, which has a population of about 250,000. The quake struck at a depth of about 11 miles, according to the USGS, and there was at least one aftershock of 5.0 magnitude.

When the first temblor struck, people in several coastal cities quickly moved away from the ocean, abandoning some shopping centers entirely.

In the communities of La Araucania, Puerto Saavedra, Tolten and Teodoro Smith,

an estimated 50,000 people voluntarily evacuated to higher ground, according to Nunez.

Hundreds of tourists spending the New Year’s holiday at the resorts of Villarica and Pucon cut their trips short and headed north, clogging roads and toll stations.

Residents of the region have fresh memories of the magnitude-8.8 quake and resulting tsunami on Feb. 27, 2010, that killed at least 521 people and left 200,000 homeless.

Sergio Barrientos, director of the seismology office at the University of Chile, said Sunday’s temblor was itself an aftershock of last year’s mega-quake. □

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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called “Aruhiba”. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always

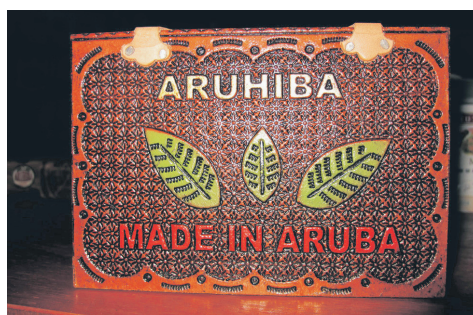
had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo “Aruhiba”. Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

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NFL Playoffs



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger waves to fans after a 41-9 win over the Cleveland Browns in an NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011, in Cleveland. The win gave the Steelers the AFC North championship and a first round bye in the playoffs.

Associated Press

Falcons, Steelers, Colts clinch divisions

BARRY WILNER

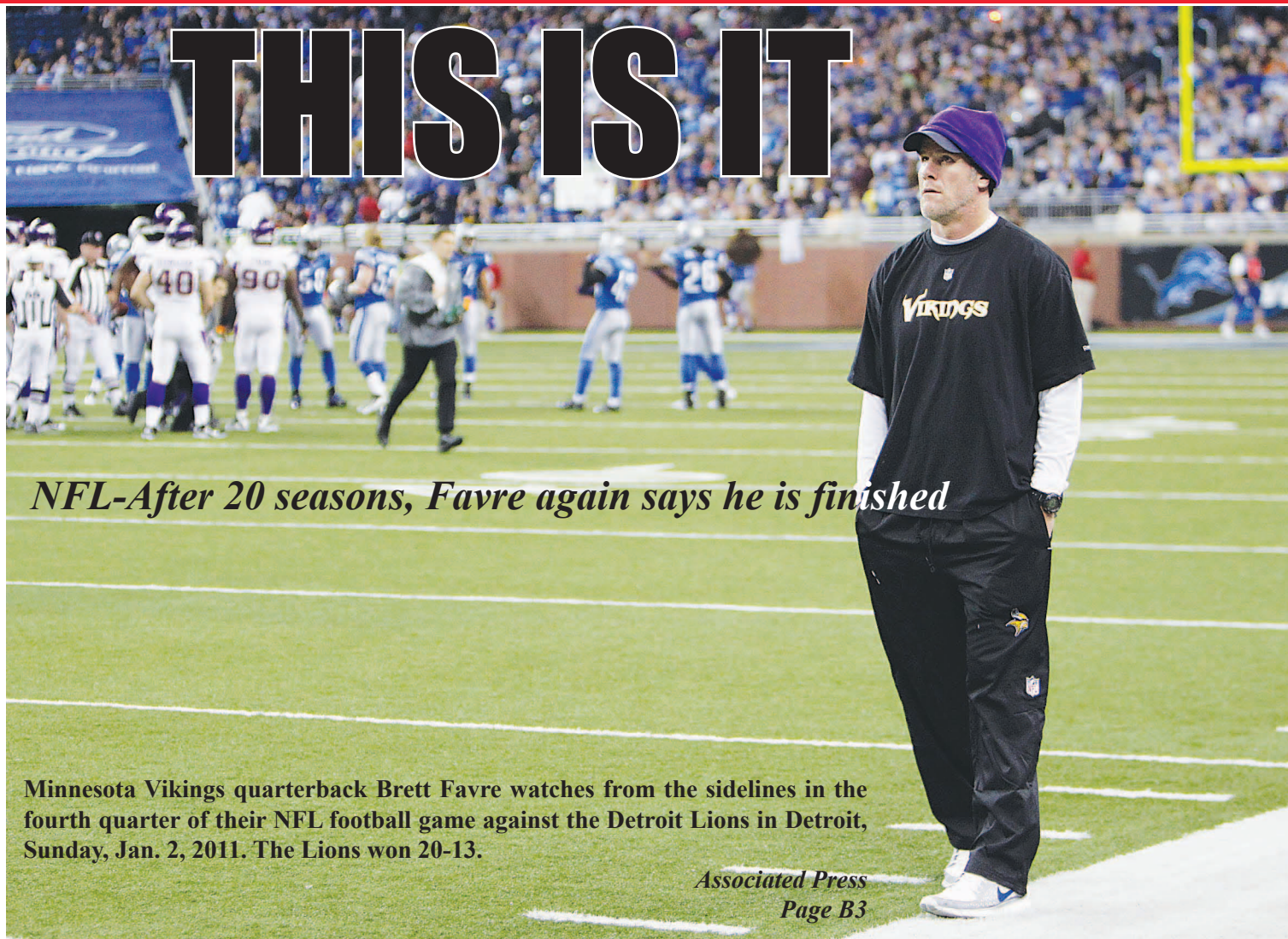
AP Pro Football Writer

Indianapolis, Atlanta and Pittsburgh clinched division titles Sunday, while Green Bay grabbed the final wild-card berth.

The Packers beat archrival Chicago 10-3 to secure the NFC's sixth seed; defending league champion New Orleans has the conference's other wild card. A last-second 43-yard field goal by the always-clutch Adam Vinatieri lifted the AFC South champion Colts past Tennessee 23-20. Indy was already assured of its seventh division crown in eight years when the Jacksonville Jaguars lost to the Houston Texans minutes earlier. It's the ninth straight year the Colts have reached the postseason, tying the NFL record Dallas set from 1975-83.

Continued on Page B4

THIS IS IT



NFL-After 20 seasons, Favre again says he is finished

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre watches from the sidelines in the fourth quarter of their NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. The Lions won 20-13.

*Associated Press
Page B3*

Flyers win in Detroit for first time since 1988



Philadelphia Flyers' Scott Hartnell (19) is congratulated on his goal by teammate Danny Briere, right center, against Detroit Red Wings during the second period of their NHL hockey game on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011, in Detroit.

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — James van Riemsdyk, Daniel Carcillo and Scott Hartnell scored to help the Philadelphia Flyers

win for the first time in Detroit in more than 22 years, 3-2 over the Red Wings on Sunday.

Brian Boucher made 25 saves for Philadelphia. Valtteri Filppula and Henrik Zetterberg scored for Detroit.

Jimmy Howard stopped 24 shots before being pulled in favor of Chris Osgood to start the third period. Osgood made five saves.

Panthers 3, Rangers 0

At Sunrise, Florida, Tomas Vokoun made 32 saves for his fifth shutout of the season and 43rd overall, and David Booth, Chris Higgins and Stephen Weiss scored as Florida downed New York.

Martin Biron stopped 32 shots for New York. The Rangers, coming off a 2-1 overtime loss in Tampa Bay on Saturday night, lost for the first time (9-1) in the second half of back-to-back games.

Thrashers 4, Canadiens 3, OT

At Montreal, Dustin Byfuglien scored his third overtime goal of the season from a power-play at 3:43 of the extra session, and Ondrej Pavelec made 47 saves in Atlanta's win over Montreal.

Continued on Page B6



This picture released by the Rio 2016 Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games shows the emblem of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Friday, Dec. 31, 2010. A multidisciplinary evaluation commission, formed by 12 professionals enjoying domestic and international recognition, was involved in the whole process of the emblem selection.

Associated Press



Volkswagen's Carlos Sainz and co-driver Lucas Cruz, both from Spain, compete during the first stage of the 2011 Argentina-Chile Dakar Rally between Victoria and Cordoba, Argentina, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press

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Rio 2016 logo creators deny claims of plagiarism

TALES AZZONI

Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The creators of the 2016 Rio Olympics logo have dismissed any claims of plagiarism, saying any similarities to one from a United States foundation is a coincidence.

The creators made the denial after Brazilian media noted similarities with the logo of the Telluride Foundation based in Colorado.

The comparisons began shortly after the Olympic logo was unveiled before about 1 million people on New Year's Eve at Rio's Copacabana beach. Both logos depict figures embraced at the arms in a flowing motion.

The director of the Brazilian agency that designed the logo said he had never seen the foundation's version. Fred Gelli told the GloboEsporte.com website that the agency did extensive research to guarantee the design was unique.

"For some reason, we missed that one," Gelli said.

Gelli acknowledged a "similarity" with the foundation's logo, but said the broad concept of people embracing each other is not novel.

The Telluride Foundation says on its website that it promotes philanthropy and provides "grants and services to the community in support of arts, education, athletics and all charitable causes."

Gelli also dismissed similarities with the painting "The Dance" by Henri Matisse.

"The brand is radically different because it is tridimensional," Gelli said. "It's a radical difference."

Gelli's Tatil agency entered the process to design the logo along with nearly 140 other competitors. A team of 15 national and international members of the organizing committee for Rio 2016 made the final decision a few months ago.

A giant TV screen set up on the sand at Copacabana beach beamed the logo to cheering spectators before a massive flag bearing the image was rolled out on top of the crowd.

Organizers say the logo was designed based on four pillars: contagious energy, harmonious diversity, exuberant nature and the Olympic spirit.

The Rio Olympics will be the first staged in South America. □

Sainz wins first stage of Dakar Rally

CORDOBA, Argentina

(AP) —

Defending champion Carlos Sainz won Sunday's first stage of the Dakar Rally, covering the 222-kilometer distance in 2 hours, 18 minutes, 32 seconds. Sainz's Volkswagen was 1:31 ahead of second-place Stephane Peterhansel in a BMW and 2:16 in front of Volkswagen teammate Nasser Al Attiyah. American driver Mark Miller was fourth, 4:17 behind.

Ruben Faria of Portugal took the stage in the bike category, clocking 1:58:02. He was 29 seconds ahead of defending champion Cyril Despres and had a 1:15 lead on Marc Coma, the 2009 champion.

Sainz managed a stage victory without having a

good day.

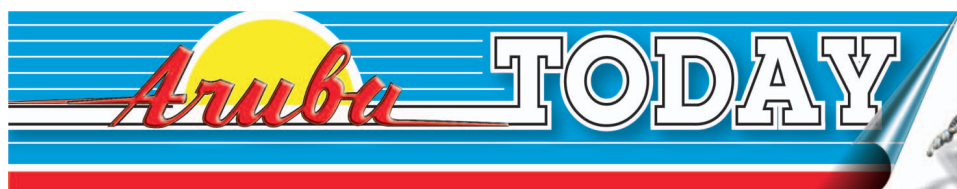
"For about 30 miles, we had a lot of rain," he said. "At times we just could not see anything. Moreover, I had issues with the wipers that had stopped working. I am really happy the day is over. It was a bit like the Rally of Great Britain."

Faria also seemed surprised to have been a winner.

"I did better today than many great riders with different driving styles," Faria said. "It's already a good point of reference." Despres took the wet, slippery day in his stride.

"It was a great warming-up exercise — a winding route, big sliding sections, a mix between skiing and riding," Despres said. "I am in good shape. ... In the beginning of a Dakar, one always

wonders: is this going to change much? Even if we tested our bikes, a Dakar will always be a Dakar. The race is on now and staying focused is of the essence." Sunday's first stage from Victoria to Corboda in northern Argentina followed the ceremonial ride from Buenos Aires to Victoria on the opening day. Officials said 407 contestants started the race on Sunday, down from the 430 who were enrolled on Saturday. Dakar is being held for the third straight year in Argentina and Chile. This year's route covers 9,500 kilometers, reaching the Atacama desert in northern Chile — one of the driest places on earth — before heading back for the Jan. 16 finish in Buenos Aires. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

End of the line? Favre says it is

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
NOAH TRISTER

Brett Favre was the NFL's ultimate iron man for 19 years, inspiring coaches and teammates with unparalleled toughness and thrilling fans with a daredevil's verve and a showman's sense of the moment.

Yet the once-irrepressible Favre never looked older or more fragile than in year No. 20. The magic of last season, and most of his brilliant career, never seemed farther away. It had to end some time. And Favre says that time is now.

The 41-year-old quarterback sat out Minnesota's season-ending loss to the Lions on Sunday with a concussion, and it appears that perhaps the toughest man to ever play in the NFL had his career end not on the field trying to rally the Vikings to another victory, but on the bench as a third-string rookie floundered in Favre's place.

No one — not even Brett Favre — can play forever.

"I know it's time, and that's OK. It is," Favre said after the 20-13 defeat. "Again, I hold no regrets, and I can't think of too many players offhand that can walk away and say that. Individually and from a team standpoint, it was way more than I ever dreamed of."

He also retired in 2008 with the Packers and 2009 with the Jets, only to return to the field both times when the football bug bit him in the summer. He knows that there will be doubters again.

"I don't know for me if it's ever easy," Favre said. "I'm sure throughout this year, the comment has been made that, 'We'll wait and see in August or September' and that's fine. It's time. I'm OK with it."

If this indeed is the end — for real, this time — for Favre,

one of the most colorful and celebrated careers in league history concluded with a season filled with interceptions, injuries and insults.

He was picked off 19 times this season and his 69.9 quarterback rating is the lowest of his career. The Vikings sunk to the bottom of the NFC North after starting the season with Super Bowl aspirations, coach Brad Childress was fired during the season and Favre was fined \$50,000 for failure to cooperate with an NFL investigation into allegations that he sent lewd photos and messages to a game-day hostess when both worked for the New York Jets in 2008.

Favre's reputation took a serious hit from the humiliating scandal, which tarnished the image of one of the league's most popular players. He declined to comment on the fine after the game. His long-awaited union with receiver Randy Moss also was a spectacular failure and his cherished streak of 297 straight starts ended three weeks ago, with a sprained throwing shoulder making it impossible for Favre to let those famously zip-filled passes rip from his right arm. And just for good measure, the Metrodome roof caved in to provide a perfect metaphor for Favre and the Vikings' 2010, forcing the Vikings to play "home" games at Detroit and at the University of Minnesota's outdoor stadium in December.

"It's been a wonderful experience for me," Favre said. "This year did not work out the way we would have hoped, but that's football. I don't regret coming back. I enjoyed my experience here." He was listed as doubtful for



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre runs off the field after their NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

the game against the Lions on Sunday, having failed to pass the necessary tests to be cleared to play during the week. The Vikings announced that he was inactive about 80 minutes before kickoff, and Joe Webb started his second straight game at quarterback. "He's a guy who loves football to death. You can tell. He played up until he was 41 years old," Webb said. "I admire him, he's a great mentor for me. I'll always keep in contact with him."

The season started reluctantly, with Favre having serious reservations about coming back after having surgery on his ankle last summer. He also wondered if he could duplicate his incredible 2009 performance, which he called the best of his career.

Childress had to send three of Favre's closest friends on the team — Ryan Longwell, Jared Allen and Steve Hutchinson — on a private plane to Hattiesburg, Miss., to coax the old man into coming back for one more shot at a Super Bowl. But that sensational 33-touchdown, seven-interception masterpiece he put together to help the Vikings reach the NFC title game last year was doomed from the start. Injuries to his two best receivers made it difficult for Favre to get going, and that indestructible body of his finally started to break down.

"All indications, when I talk with him, and we've had many, many discussions — this is it," interim coach Leslie Frazier said. "I don't even think it'll be an issue in the future. I don't see any situation that's going to change his mind. You might say, 'We'll, we've been down that road before,' but it's different now. Things are different, in his life and in the

Associated Press

organization's life as well." The website Deadspin published the tawdry allegations about Favre's supposed advances on Jenn Sterger in October, and he spent the next two months sidestepping questions about it while being exposed to the kind of public humiliation that he's never had to deal with before. □



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NFL PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page B1

"I think it shows the resolve of this team and our fight," Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney said. "It doesn't matter if we're 6-6 and we have to win our last four, we have to do it. If we have to win the last seven, we'll try to do it. That's just kind of what we are and we've been that for a while."

So Indianapolis (10-6) hosts the New York Jets (11-5) in a rematch of last January's AFC championship game on Saturday night. Before that, the Saints (12-4) are at the NFC West winner, either St. Louis or Seattle. On Sunday, NFC East champion Philadelphia (10-6) hosts Green Bay (10-6) after AFC West winner Kansas City (10-6) is at

home against Baltimore (12-4).

Atlanta (13-3) won the NFC South with a 31-10 rout of Carolina. The Falcons get home-field advantage throughout the playoffs and a bye next week. They open their postseason the weekend of Jan. 15-16 in the Georgia Dome.

"It's very important," top receiver Roddy White said. "We rarely lose in this building. We find a way to win here."

Indeed, the Falcons are 20-2 at home with quarterback Matt Ryan as a starter.

The Steelers (12-4) took the AFC North with a 41-9 romp at Cleveland (5-11). They edged Baltimore in the division, making the Ravens a wild card. Pittsburgh is the No. 2 seed

NFL coaching changes in the air

By The Associated Press

Five NFL coaches have already lost their jobs, and a whole lot more could be looking for new positions in the next few days.

Start with the state of Ohio, where Cincinnati's Marvin Lewis and Cleveland's Eric Mangini are scheduled to meet with club executives Monday to decide their future.

Lewis no longer is under contract and is expected to move on after the Bengals lost to the Ravens 13-7 to finish the season 4-12.

"All I know is, officially today I'm no longer employed," Lewis said.

Mangini meets with Browns president Mike Holmgren, who could make a change after a 5-11 season, giving Mangini a 10-22 record in his two years.

"It's a really disappointing way to end the season," Mangini said. "There are not many positives to talk about." Other coaches who could be in trouble include Miami's Tony Sparano, Houston's Gary Kubiak, Tennessee's Jeff Fisher and Oakland's Tom Cable.

Interim coaches Jason Garrett of Dallas and Leslie Frazier of Minnesota could soon get their jobs permanently.

John Fox coached his last

game for the Carolina Panthers, a 31-10 loss to the Falcons, two days after it was announced he wouldn't be back. He was the fifth coach to lose his job before the end of the season — the others were Wade Phillips (Cowboys); Brad Childress (Vikings); Josh McDaniels (Broncos); and Mike Singletary (49ers). "It's been a heck of a run," Fox said. "A lot of good memories. I know I didn't finish like anybody wanted. I would have never expected to have a nine-year run. If I was given the chance to do it all over again, I would."

Some coaches have been told they'll be back, among them the Giants' Tom Coughlin. New York beat the Redskins 17-14 to finish 10-6 but missed the playoffs for the second straight year. Co-owner John Mara said there was "never any doubt" Coughlin would be back.

There's also been speculation Kubiak would return and fire many of his defensive assistants. The Texans lost eight of their final 10 games and had the league's worst pass defense.

Kubiak said he would meet with owner Bob McNair on Monday.

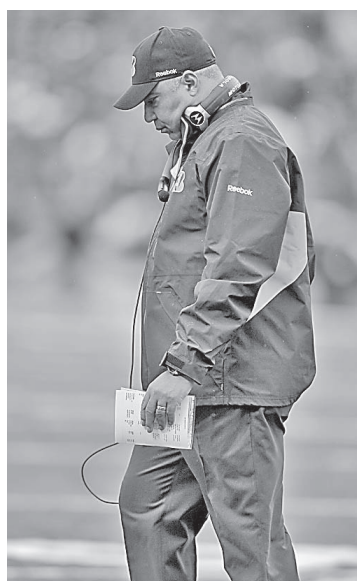
Though Fisher's 16 full seasons in Tennessee rank as



Indianapolis Colts players congratulate Adam Vinatieri, obscured, after his game-winning 43-yard field goal at the end of NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans in Indianapolis, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. Indianapolis won 23-20.

behind New England in the AFC and will have a bye next weekend.

"We love to win the division," Ben



Cincinnati Bengals coach Marvin Lewis walks along the sidelines during the first half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Baltimore, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. The Ravens defeated the Bengals 13-7.

Associated Press
the league's longest tenure, he plans to meet with owner Bud Adams shortly. The owner isn't happy after the Titans started 5-2 and finished 6-10. "I'm under contract for another year, so we'll see," Fisher said. "We're going to come back and have wrap-up physicals tomorrow and we'll start our evaluation process." There have been rumblings that Cable's job could be on the line even though Oakland (8-8) closed out its best season since 2002 with a 31-10 win over the AFC West champion Chiefs. □

Roethlisberger said. "This is a hard division. We hope this is just the beginning." New England already owned the top seed in the AFC and beat Miami 38-7 to finish 14-2, the league's best record. The Patriots won their last eight games. "The greatest advantage we have is we don't have to play next week and we play at home the following week," Tom Brady said, "so that's really what we've earned to this point. I don't think we've earned anything more than that." When Kansas City was ripped by Oakland 31-10, it gave the Colts the chance to become the No. 3 seed.

"I'm disappointed we lost, but we've got to bounce back," Chiefs running back Jamaal Charles said. "We've got another week going. The Raiders don't." Baltimore defeated Cincinnati 13-7 to finish its season, while the Jets routed Buffalo 38-7.

Ravens star linebacker Ray Lewis doesn't care where his team has to travel.

"I think one reason why, for us, it never matters, is because our defense, we travel very well on the road," Lewis said. "We play extremely well on the road."

They were 5-3 away from home this season. They

also won a wild-card game at New England last year. The previous season, the Ravens won at Miami and Tennessee in the playoffs.

The Jets won two postseason road games last year before falling short of the Super Bowl when the Colts stopped them.

"We are ready to go do what we set out to do," coach Rex Ryan said. "If somebody is going to beat us, then they must be really good."

Also in the playoffs from the NFC is Chicago (11-5), which owns the North title and the conference's other bye. Green Bay finished second in the division and got the final wild card on tiebreakers over Tampa Bay and the New York Giants.

"Tonight was a struggle, but it's nice to keep that momentum going," Aaron Rodgers said after the win against the Bears. "We've won two in a row and now we've got to go (on the road). And we can't have the kind of inconsistent performances we've had this year that have forced us to be the No. 6 seed."

The divisional round lineup will have Pittsburgh at home Saturday afternoon, Jan. 15, followed by Atlanta hosting a night game. On Jan. 16, Chicago hosts the early game, followed by a game at New England. □

NBA Roundup

Pierce scores 30 as Celtics beat Toronto Raptors 93-79

TORONTO (AP) — Paul Pierce scored 30 points and Ray Allen had 23 as the Boston Celtics beat the Toronto Raptors 93-79 on Sunday.

Glenn Davis added 15 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists as Boston won for the 10th time in 11 meetings with Toronto.

Pierce hit 10 of 15 shots, seven of eight free throws and grabbing seven rebounds to help Boston snap a two-game losing streak.

DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points, Joey Dorsey had 13 points and 13 rebounds, and Amir Johnson had 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who have lost 11 of their past 14.

Hawks 107, Clippers 98

At Los Angeles, Joe Johnson scored 11 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter

and Josh Smith added 22 as Atlanta rallied for the win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Johnson, who returned to the lineup on Dec. 17 after missing nine games following right elbow surgery, was 7 for 20 from the field after going 18 of 51 over his previous three games.

Clippers rookie Blake Griffin scored 19 of his 31 points in the first half and pulled down 15 rebounds for his 27th double-double and 21st in a row.

Baron Davis had 15 points and five assists.

Knicks 98, Pacers 92

At New York, Amare Stoudemire scored 26 points, including six of New York's last seven points, and Danilo Gallinari had 19 to lead New York over Indiana.

Danny Granger had 25 points and 17 rebounds, and Darren Collison had 22 points, six assists and five rebounds for the Pacers, who lost for the fourth time in their last five games.

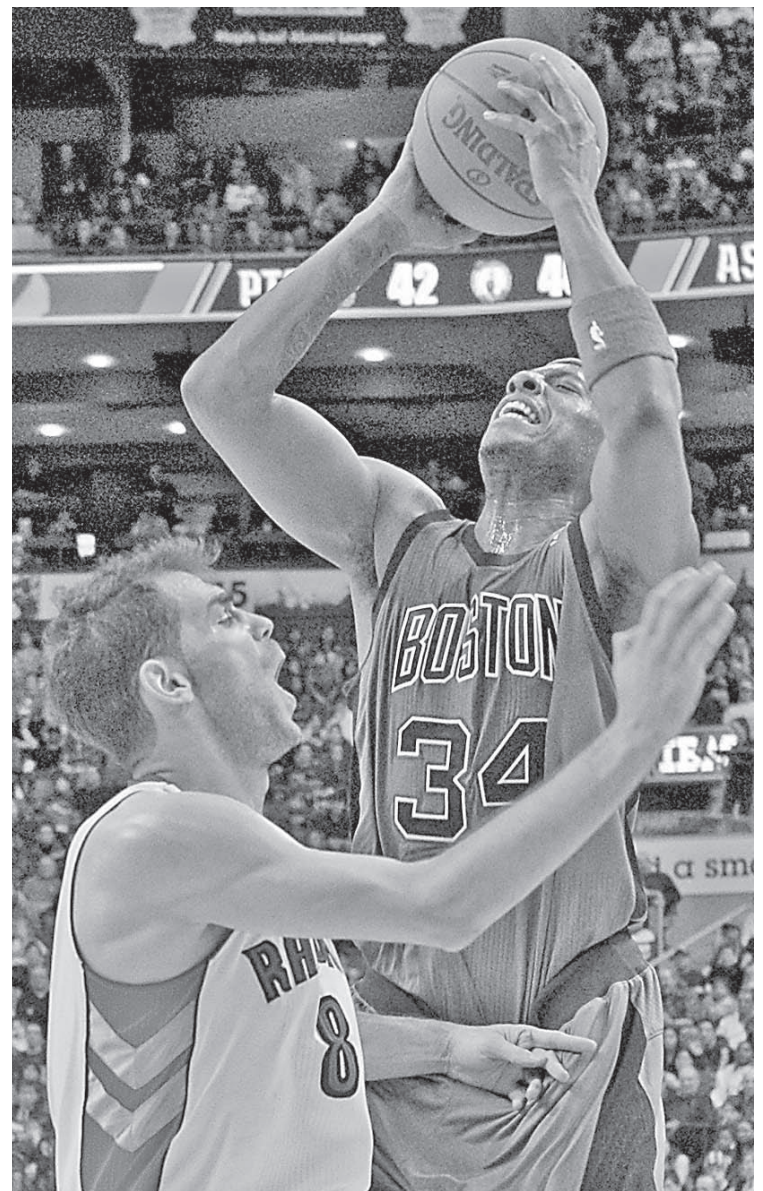
Mavericks 104, Cavaliers 95

At Cleveland, Shawn Marion scored 22 points and DeShawn Stevenson added 21 to help Dallas end a three-game losing streak.

The Mavericks, playing without starting forwards Dirk Nowitzki and Caron Butler, used a balanced attack.

Jason Terry scored 18 points, Tyson Chandler added 14 points and 14 rebounds, and Jason Kidd had 10 points and eight assists.

Antawn Jamison led Cleveland with a season-high 35 points, and Ramon Sessions added 19.



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce, right, is fouled by Toronto Raptors' Jose Calderon during first-half NBA basketball game action in Toronto, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press





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THE TOURIST	daily: 4:15 - 6:30 - 8:45 matinee: 2:00 late show: 11:15	PG-13	LITTLE FOCKERS	daily: 5:30 - 7:45 - 10:00 matinee: 12:30 - 3:00 late show: 12:15	PG-13

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NHL ROUNDUP

Continued from Page B1

Byfuglien leads NHL defensemen with 16 goals and 41 points. He has six winning goals.

Rich Peverley, Evander Kane and Andrew Ladd scored in regulation for Atlanta. Montreal captain Brian Gionta scored with 4:47 left in the third to tie it at 3. The Canadiens got power-play goals from Tomas Plekanec and P.K. Subban.

Atlanta Thrashers' Chris Thorburn, left, and Patrice Cormier celebrate a goal against the Montreal Canadiens by Evander Kane (9) during the second period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011, in Montreal.

Associated Press

Wild 6, Coyotes 5. OT

At St. Paul, Minnesota, Cam Barker scored 46 seconds into overtime after Pierre-Marc Bouchard leveled it with 26 seconds left in regulation as Minnesota edged Phoenix.

Andrew Brunette scored twice, Brent Burns and Nick Schultz added goals, Mikko Koivu had four assists and Jose Theodore made 39 saves for the Wild. Ray Whitney scored twice for Phoenix, while Scottie Upshall, Keith Yandle and Ed Jovanovski added goals and Jason LaBarbera stopped 23 shots.

Predators 4, Blue Jackets 1 At Nashville, Tennessee, Shea Weber had a goal and two assists, and Pekka Rinne made 19 saves as Nashville downed Columbus.

Nick Spaling, Patric Hornqvist and Sergei

Kostitsyn also scored to help Nashville run its home winning streak against Columbus to 15 games. The Predators have won two straight following a five-game losing streak.

R.J. Umberger scored for Columbus. The Blue Jackets had won three straight.

Stars 4, Blues 2

At St. Louis, Brad Richards scored the go-ahead goal at 6:32 of the third period and Kari Lehtonen stopped 28 shots in Dallas' win over St. Louis.

Richards also had two assists, Brenden Morrow scored twice, and Dallas had three third-period goals en route to its fifth straight road victory. James Neal added a goal with 2:50 left.

Alex Steen and David Backes scored for the Blues. □

Canada slips past Swiss in quarters

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Canada set up an anticipated rematch, even if it'll be two days earlier than expected.

Canada reached the semifinals of the World Junior Championships with a 4-1 win Sunday over Switzerland, and will face the United States on Monday. The winner will advance to the gold-medal game on Wednesday.

The semifinal will be a rematch of last year's championship game, when the Americans snapped Canada's string of five straight gold medals with an overtime win.

Sweden beat Canada in a shootout in the final game of the preliminary round Friday to grab the top seed in Group B, dropping Canada into the quarterfinals.

The USA won group A and got a bye into the semis.

"It was the most hyped game coming in," Canadian forward Marcus Foligno said. "I think it will live up to it. The U.S. versus Canada. Here it is."

A win over its southern neighbor Monday would give Canada a chance to play for its 16th gold medal since this tournament began in 1977. A U.S. victory would put the host country into the gold-medal game for the third time in the past 11 years.

"It's the U.S., and I don't think anybody in the locker room really likes them," Canadian forward Louis Leblanc said with a sly smile. "They're a solid and balanced team."

Leblanc, Ryan Johansen, Casey Cizikas and Zack Kassian scored, and Mark Visentin made 21 saves for Canada against a stubborn Swiss team that came in having gone 2-2 in Group A during the preliminary round. Switzerland gave the Americans all they could handle on Friday in a 2-1 loss. Benjamin Konz, who made 40 saves against the Americans, finished with 46 against Canada. After Kassian, who returned after serving a two-game suspension for a hit that knocked out Czech Republic defenseman Petr Senkerik Tuesday, capped the scoring with an empty-net goal with 1:59 left in regulation, the pro-Canadian crowd began chanting, "We want USA!" □

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Kostelic, Pietilae-Holmner win 1st parallel events

MUNICH (AP) — Ivica Kostelic of Croatia and Maria Pietilae-Holmner of Sweden won the first parallel slalom events in the World Cup on Sunday, which were open only to the top 16 alpine skiers. Kostelic, a slalom specialist, beat Julien Lizeroux of France over two heats in the big final by a total of 1.61 seconds to claim 100 points for the overall World Cup standings and 40,000 Swiss francs (\$43,000). “You really have to be aware of your senses,” Kostelic said. “You see and hear the other skier.” American allrounder Bode Miller won the small final, defeating Felix Neureuther of Germany by 0.05 seconds after leading by 0.25 seconds in the first heat. In the women’s big final,



Winner Ivica Kostelic of Croatia, center, celebrates on the podium with second placed Julien Lizeroux of France, left, and third placed Bode Miller from the United States, right, after an alpine skiing parallel slalom World Cup race held in Munich, southern Germany, on Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press

Pietilae-Holmner trailed Tina Maze of Slovenia by 0.12 seconds after the first heat but came back to win by 0.47 seconds.

Elisabeth Goergl of Austria beat Daniela Merighetti of Italy in the small final.

The event pitted skiers to compete side by side down a 200-meter course that contained 20 gates. More than 25,000 fans attended Olympiapark in downtown Munich, which used the event to promote its bid for the 2018 Winter Olympics. Miller praised the atmosphere and described the racing as exciting, but wasn’t an uncritical fan of the event.

“I genuinely hope it’s not the future of ski racing. It’s not the tradition of ski racing,” Miller said. “It’s a good component of the season to build interest, to bring ski racing to a city, and it’s really positive. But

there’s no way you can call a season of this ‘World Cup.’

“We need to move in the opposite direction. This is for show. To balance this you need the longest, most challenging and difficult hills as well.”

Michael Walchhofer of Austria went out in the first round but was able to overtake Silvan Zurbriggen on top of the overall World Cup standings, with 409 points to 395 for the Swiss skier. American racer Ted Ligety is third with 336 after getting losing in the first round to Lizeroux.

Miller is 12th overall with 195 points while Kostelic jumped to seventh with 279. On the women’s side, Pietilae-Holmner beat Lindsey Vonn in the quarterfinals after the American stumbled in the first run.

“I have done these events

before,” Pietilae-Holmner said. “I just decided to go for it and it worked. I had nothing to lose.”

Despite losing, Vonn was happy to have been part of the event.

“It was really fun,” she said. “The atmosphere was amazing. There was so many people. I’ve never seen an event like this before. So it was definitely a fun night.

“In the second round, I was ahead of her (Pietilae-Holmner) by half a gate and I got inside and went out. It was too much time to make up in the second run. It happens.”

Overall World Cup leader Maria Riesch of Germany lost in the first round to Merighetti but remained on top of the standings with 753 points, 106 ahead of Vonn.

Goergl is third with 483 points. □



Winner Petra Majdic of Slovenia celebrates on the podium after the ladies’ 1.2 km classical sprint race at the cross country Tour de Ski competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press

Joensson, Majdic win Tour de Ski races

OBERSTDORF, Germany (AP) — Emil Joensson of Sweden and Slovenia’s Petra Majdic won the third stage races of the cross-country Tour de Ski on Sunday.

Joensson held off Canadian Devon Kershaw in a photo finish at the 1.2km classic sprint in Oberstdorf, Germany, winning in 2 minutes, 34.1 seconds. Dario Cologna of Switzerland was third, 0.3 behind.

Sixth-place Alexander Legkov remains overall World Cup leader with 610 points, ahead of Cologna on 596. Marcus Hellner of Sweden is third with 393.

Cologna leads the Tour de Ski standings after three of eight races with a time of 49:09.9. Kershaw is 3.7 seconds behind and Legkov trails Cologna by 23.1 seconds.

Majdic won the women’s 1.2km classic sprint in 2:50.8. Poland’s Justyna Kowalczyk was 4.3 seconds behind Majdic. Astrid Uhrenholdt Jacobsen of Norway was 4.8 seconds adrift..

Kowalczyk extended her lead in the Tour standings to 44.4 seconds ahead of Majdic. Aino-Kaisa Saarinen of Finland is third — 1:00.3 back.

Kowalczyk was unable to catch overall World Cup leader Marit Bjoergen of Norway, who is not taking part in the Tour. Bjoergen leads with 760 points to 685 for Kowalczyk. Arianna Follis of Italy is third with 474 points.

The Tour involves a grueling eight races in 10 days in five locations in Germany and Italy. It continues Monday with the 10km and 20km mixed pursuits in Oberstdorf. □



Federer, Nadal set to resume rivalry in Doha

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Roger Federer will be looking to bounce back from a string of Grand Slam defeats in 2010 while his biggest rival, top-ranked Rafael Nadal, is hoping to resume the dominant form that saw him capture the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open titles.

Spectators can expect to see much of the pair in 2011, starting with the season-opening Qatar Open in Doha which begins Monday. A taste of their long-running rivalry was also on display in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, when Nadal edged Federer 7-6, 7-6 to defend his title at the invitational World Tennis Championships.

Before leaving for Doha, the No. 2-ranked Federer said he saw Abu Dhabi and Doha as a chance to try out new shots, adding that he was looking forward to resuming his duel with Nadal that will get its first big test at the Australian Open where the 29-year-old Swiss is the defending champion.

“It’s a special Australian



In this photo issued by ATP showing Rafael Nadal of Spain, left, and Roger Federer of Switzerland as they play tennis on a specially designed aquatic tennis court, set up in the Gulf Sea to promote the upcoming Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament, in Doha, Qatar, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011, with the Doha city panorama in background. The ATP Open tournament starts Jan. 3, 2011 and runs until Jan. 8.

Associated Press

Open with me being the defending champion,” Federer said. “Obviously the focus is going to be on the two of us. Tennis is really going to be exciting down in Australia.”

Nadal said he doesn’t feel any pressure ahead of this year’s Australian Open, even though a tournament victory there would make

him the first man to win four major titles in a row since Rod Laver pulled off a calendar Grand Slam by claiming all four in 1969.

“It’s not extra pressure, for me it’s extra motivation,” Nadal said, who lost in the Doha final last year to Russian Nikolay Davydenko.

“The pressure is everyday

to play well and keep winning matches and I don’t think (about) winning (the) Australian Open immediately,” Nadal said. “You never know what’s going to happen since it’s going to be a very difficult tournament.”

For Nadal, staying healthy will be his top priority. He still grimaces at the

memories of last year’s Australian Open — where he retired from his quarterfinal with a knee injury, the lone blemish on his 25-1 Grand Slam record in 2010. “Health. That’s the most important thing. For myself and everybody that’s the most important thing,” Nadal said after winning in Abu Dhabi. “Without that, the rest of the things are just impossible.”

In Doha, Federer and Nadal are the top seeds, ahead of Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga. Fourth-seeded Davydenko is hoping to find his form after a year in which he has dropped from sixth to 22nd in the rankings.

“It’s good to be back here in Doha as the defending champion, although I’m no longer the favorite here,” Davydenko said. “I’m keen to make my presence felt ... I’m now ranked 22nd and have to make amends.”

In their first round matches, Federer plays a qualifier while Nadal plays the 103rd-ranked Karol Beck of Slovakia. □



Serbian Ana Ivanovic clenches her fist as she defeats Kazakhstan’s Yaroslava Shvedova in straight sets on day two of the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament in Perth, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

ALEXANDRA WILLIS
Associated Press

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Novak Djokovic and Ana Ivanovic combined to give Serbia a 3-0 sweep over Kazakhstan on Sunday in their

opening match at the Hopman Cup.

Ivanovic defeated Yaroslava Shvedova 7-6 (6), 6-1 in the opening match before Djokovic sealed the victory by rallying to beat Andrey

Serbia sweeps Kazakhstan 3-0 at Hopman Cup team tennis

Golubev 4-6, 6-3, 6-1. The duo completed the sweep with a 7-6 (2), 6-4 win in the mixed doubles.

Djokovic looked sluggish in the first set, when Golubev got the decisive break in the ninth game. But the Serb found his stride in the second, taking a 5-2 lead before racing through the decider.

“I was having a lot of fun,” said Djokovic, who is playing in the event for the first time since 2007. “You don’t get many events throughout the year where you can really have fun and enjoy tennis. This is the event where I could just bring some laughs and a

couple of jokes here and there during the match. Hopefully people like it.”

In the women’s singles match, both players struggled with their serve in the first set, which saw five consecutive breaks. But Ivanovic gradually took control thanks to her stronger baseline play in the hot and humid conditions at Perth’s Burswood Dome.

After trading breaks again to start the second set, Ivanovic reeled off the next five games to clinch the win.

“I think we were both really nervous and it was so hard to hold our serves,” Ivanovic said. “I started to serve a little

bit better in the tiebreaker and then in the second set. I am working on it still. It’s been good the last few months. It’s also the first match for a while but it’s good to have the pressure of playing matches again.”

On Monday, the United States will play France, with John Isner set to take on Nicolas Mahut since their marathon 70-68 fifth set at Wimbledon last year. Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Kristina Mladenovic will contest the women’s singles. British players Andy Murray and Laura Robson will take on Potito Starace and Francesca Schiavone of Italy. □

Doctor Will Skype You Now

More MDs Use Web for House Calls In the winter, a mountainous region of California that the locals call the Grapevine is plagued by severe weather. The highway that winds through it is coated with snow and ice, making travel between central and southern parts of the state difficult and, sometimes, nearly impossible.

During these stormy outbursts, Dr. Gregory Smith, who specializes in treating chronic pain and prescription drug abuse, can't make it from his office in Los Angeles to his Fresno clinic. Two years ago, his only options were to reschedule appointments or cancel altogether.

But now, Smith uses his computer webcam to "see" his patients. He estimates the video technology enabled him to save 350 to 500 appointments this year.

"It's almost as good as being there," said Smith, whose two clinics have more than 1,300 patients. Web-camera doctor appointments have their benefits and their drawbacks.

Free online video-chat services let doctors check in quickly with patients, which can be more convenient for both. They let sick patients keep their germs at home, rather than bring them to an office. And doctors in some specialties, such as plastic surgery, use the technology to extend the reach of their practices by having e-consultations with patients in far-away cities.

But nothing can replace real-life contact with a patient, doctors say. There are nuances to medical conditions that can be conveyed only during face-to-face interactions.

While the pros and cons of video-chats are debated, one thing seems certain: With technology creeping into more areas of our lives, the number of people making such appointments will only increase.

On the rise

It's hard to quantify how many doctors now use webcams in their practices, because no agency tracks or requires doctors to report webcam use,

said Gary Capistrant, senior director of public policy at the American Telemedicine Association (ATA).

But "it's absolutely increasing," Capistrant told MyHealthNewsDaily, "and now that you've got those 4G phones where you can videoconference from your cell phone, it's going to be much more common."

For some, the question is not whether to video-chat with patients, but rather how to strike a balance between video and real-life appointments.

Smith won't use a webcam or Skype software exclusively to see patients who are far away, and prefers to have at least a few in-person appointments before agreeing to a webcam visit. But the technology is useful for quick check-ins if a patient doesn't have an appointment, he said.

"If there's some pressing event, it's so convenient that you can say, 'I'll just Skype this guy for five to 10 minutes,'" Smith said. "Then, you can solve the problem right there instead of having to



make another appointment." Under current laws, doctors must be licensed in other states if they are seeing patients outside of their home state on a more-than-occasional basis, according to the ATA.

But as technology becomes more advanced, gray areas in the laws are likely to grow, Capistrant said, and doctors will need to be increasingly aware of medical laws in other states. To practice medicine right now - even over a computer - a doctor must be licensed in the state where he or she is physically located, as well as in the state where the patient is located, he said. But many doctors are licensed

in more than one state, and some states have agreements with others to accommodate doctors who see patients across state lines, Capistrant said. Doctors also have to make sure their communication is secure and encrypted in some fashion in order to abide by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which ensures patient privacy, Capistrant said. "Doctors should inform the patient of what's involved and disclose any risk, but the patient is ultimately the one who can decide ... the level of protection they want on their medical information," Capistrant said. □

Fans relieved to be able to watch Outback Bowl



NEW YORK — College football fans were elated that they could stay home to watch the Florida Gators play the Penn State Nittany Lions in Saturday's Outback Bowl, after Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc. and two cable TV companies agreed to extend contract talks for two more

weeks. Hunt Valley, Md.-based Sinclair and the two cable providers Time Warner Cable Inc. and Bright House Networks have been locked in an acrimonious tug-of-war over the fees that the cable companies pay to air programs from 33 of Sinclair's television

stations. Their previous contract was scheduled to expire at midnight Friday. If the companies hadn't reached a temporary two-week extension late Friday night, local Sinclair stations including affiliates of NBC, ABC, CBS and Fox would have been dropped from channel lineups for roughly 4 million Time Warner customers and an unknown number of Bright House subscribers.

Chip Corbin, a Penn State alumnus in Ohio, had planned to go to a sports bar to watch the Outback Bowl if his ABC affiliate had blacked out. Sports bars typically subscribe to satellite services, which are unaffected by the Sinclair dispute.

"It's nice to know that I won't be competing with folks who are going to want to watch different bowl games," said Corbin, 32, an engineer with the Air Force who lives just outside of Dayton in Huber

Heights, Ohio. "My whole life has been Penn State football," he said.

Corbin said the comforts of home trumped the possibility of being stuck in a corner of a bar with few people interested in his game.

"I've got my 46-inch, high-definition TV, and I get to make my own chicken wing recipe," Corbin said.

Even if Sinclair hadn't agreed to the extension, Time Warner had said it would have imported broadcast signals from other cities to replace Sinclair stations so that its customers could still enjoy network programming from these four networks. Syndicated shows such as "Seinfeld" could have been moved to different time slots. However, viewers would have lost access to local news and weather.

Bright House added that it, too, would have carried feeds from other cities if its dispute with Sinclair remained unresolved.

Those plans would have likely kept the Outback Bowl game on regardless of whether the contract dispute was settled.

This means that even if Sinclair and the two cable companies do not reach an agreement by their new target date of Jan. 14, subscribers will still be able to watch the Golden Globes, which will air on NBC on Jan. 16, as well as ongoing NFL playoff and NHL games.

By making those alternate arrangements, the cable companies put pressure on Sinclair to continue negotiating and possibly reconsider its proposed broadcasting fee hike. Time Warner has been using that same strategy in upstate New York to work around a similar dispute with Smith Media. Viewers still get prime-time shows and other national programming but their local newscasts come from other markets. □

After rehab release, more uncertainty for Lohan

LOS ANGELES – Lindsay Lohan is scheduled to be released from a rehab center



'Hot in Cleveland' star Valerie Bertinelli marries

MALIBU, Calif. – Actress Valerie Bertinelli has tied the knot in Malibu.

Publicist Heidi Schaeffer told The Associated Press that the 50-year-old "Hot in Cleveland" star married financial planner Tom Vitale Saturday.

Schaeffer said in an email that a report by People Magazine of the wedding was accurate.

The ceremony took place in front of about 100 people at her home, according to People.

Guests included Bertinelli's ex-husband rocker Eddie Van Halen and their son Wolfgang. Bertinelli and Van Halen split in 2000 and were officially divorced in 2007.

Bertinelli stars in the TV Land sitcom "Hot in Cleveland" and serves as a TV spokeswoman for the Jenny Craig weight loss system. She first found fame as star of the 1980s sitcom "One Day at a Time."

She and the 49-year-old Vitale had been dating for seven years and were engaged during an Italian vacation in March. □

Monday into another year of uncertainty.

For months, the actress has been haunted by her inability, or unwillingness, to shake a 3 1/2 year old drunken driving case that resulted in two rehab stints and two trips to jail in 2010 alone.

A self-acknowledged addict, Lohan remains under investigation for an alleged attack on a rehab worker at the Betty Ford Center and she could land back in jail for six months if charged with misdemeanor battery or another probation violation.

If Lohan remains out of trouble, a judge could relax the terms of her sentence in late February, ending a cycle of court hearings and jail threats that have loomed consistently since May.

After spending three months in treatment programs at Betty Ford, experts say Lohan has a good shot at recovery. Provided, of course, that she wants it, changes her party girl lifestyle and remains in continued therapy.

If a New Year's Day message posted on her Twitter account is any indication, the "Mean Girls" star seems ready to do that. "Today is the first day of the rest of my life," it said. "'The future depends on what we do in the present.' -Mahatma Gandhi... One step at a time..."

It won't be easy, but she has "a fighting chance," says Jeffrey C. Friedman, a substance abuse counselor at Cottonwood Tucson and a

recovering heroin addict who has been sober for 24 years.

"It would just be a question, is she going to be willing to continue to make the sacrifices she needs to? For all of us, it's a lifelong process."

Rehab and recovery are different for each individual, said Dr. Westley Clark, an addiction medicine psychiatrist at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. He noted that substance abuse can "hijack cognitive functioning" and lead people to make irrational decisions. Similar self-destruction actions are sometimes seen in patients battling diseases such as diabetes and obesity, he said.

"Ultimately, someone who has an alcohol or drug problem has to come to grips with the consequences," Clark said, adding that he could not specifically speak about Lohan's condition.

Dealing with the repercussions of her previous actions won't just confront Lohan in criminal court. She also faces a civil trial in which a woman and three young men accused her of wrongdoing for a high-speed chase that ended with Lohan's arrest in Santa Monica in 2007.

Career-wise, any resurgence appears intertwined with her continued recovery.

Gone is her role as porn star Linda Lovelace in a biopic, and no replacement acting gig has been announced. But those connected with her clothing enterprise say Lohan,



24, will leave rehab poised to spearhead a fall fashion line. The actress' lawyer and other reps did not return messages seeking comment on her post-rehab plans.

Even though Lohan hasn't headlined a major film in more than three years, a career comeback isn't out of the question.

"If they forgave Robert Downey Jr., Lindsay should be in the choir compared to him," said J. Michael Flanagan, a high-profile criminal defense attorney. He said he thought Lohan's case had been blown out of proportion, and that she

has made it worse for herself by not showing proper respect in court.

"Hollywood is also a recovery town," Friedman said. "There are a lot of people who are out there who are clean and sober. There are 12-step meetings some that are musician-centered, others that are entertainment-centered.

"They don't publicize it, but it's there." He said ultimately, it's up to Lohan to want to stay sober. Her surroundings will be key. "I don't think anybody who is new in recovery has any business going to the clubs," he said. □

Chuck Berry felt ill before Chicago show



CHICAGO – Rock-and-roll legend Chuck Berry felt ill and was checked out by ambulance medics before

a show Saturday night, a Chicago fire official said. An audience member at the show, however, said Berry slumped over during the show and was offstage for at least 20 minutes.

Fire Department spokesman Joe Roccasalva said Berry felt better and signed a release after being checked out. Roccasalva said the confusion arose because emergency personnel later responded to a patron at the show who was unwell.

Berry, 84, is known for

his classic songs including "Maybelline," "Johnny B. Goode," and "Roll Over Beethoven."

His agent Dick Alen said he had no information on the matter.

Concertgoer Steve Handwerker said Berry was giving an erratic, out-of-tune performance. While sitting at the keyboard, Handwerker said, Berry fell onto it face first and was helped offstage. He said he went outside and saw an ambulance at the back of the theater, but ran back inside

when he heard the remaining crowd roar.

Berry, still in his performance outfit, was standing unassisted and seemed alert, Handwerker said. He said Berry thanked the crowd, said medics put on a blood pressure cuff, and patted his chest.

Saying he wanted to give fans what they wanted, Berry did a step or two of what he called his "heel scoop" move and was helped offstage. Handwerker said he later saw Berry get into a white limousine and ride away from the theater. □



Hangover or after-party for stocks?

NEW YORK - A bout of profit taking seems likely early in the new year after the S&P 500 ended its best December in almost two decades, but stocks may have further to run at the start of 2011.

Technical indicators are pointing to a strained market, though recently stocks have been maintaining the momentum of late 2010.

The potential is certainly there for shares to derail this week with some important economic reports due. A repeat of last month's disappointing U.S. jobs number could spark a sell-off.

"We think in the near term markets are getting ahead of themselves," said Zahid Siddique, a portfolio manager for Gabelli Equity Trust in

Rye, New York. "The data has to be good for the markets to continue to go up, and if there is any weakness in the data, we think we could have a sell-off."

Analysts in a Reuters poll expect the economy added 126,000 jobs in December, up from 39,000 the prior month, but still not enough to significantly dent unemployment.

A series of global purchasing managers indexes are also due this week, including the Institute for Supply Management's two monthly surveys. They are expected to show growth quickened in December in the U.S. services and manufacturing sectors.

An array of technical factors show the market may be at the

top end of its recent trading range, but strongly trending markets often produce false signals.

"There is no denying the fact that the market is overbought," said Paul Hickey, an analyst at Bespoke Investment Group in Harrison, New York. "The entire month of December the S&P 500 has closed in overbought levels everyday."

Hickey considers the S&P 500 overbought when it moves one standard deviation above its 50-day moving average. But looking at prior months where that has occurred, he found performance the next month was above average instead of reverting to the mean.

"Momentum tends to carry the market further," he said.

BEST S&P DECEMBER



SINCE 1991

Signs of an improving economy, tax breaks and loose monetary policy helped spur a near 20-percent rally in the S&P 500 since the end of August. The index rose 6.5 percent in the last month of the year -- its best December since 1991.

The gains stalled in the last week of the year with indexes finishing essentially flat.

Siddique, who helps manage a \$1.3 billion equity fund, says his firm raised cash as equities rose by paring positions in strong performing consumer discretionary and industrial sectors.

He said worries over Europe's sovereign debt crisis, global growth and political tensions may resurface. He is looking at defensive sectors such as utilities, consumer staples

and healthcare, which have lagged. "In some of our fund we have been increasing cash allocations," he said. "So if there is a sell-off, we can reallocate that cash into the relevant sectors."

The S&P 500 relative strength index, which compares price gains to losses over a given period, has been near or above the overbought 70 level for nearly two weeks.

The index's slow stochastic and moving average convergence-divergence (MACD) levels indicate that S&P 500 may be nearing the top of its recent trading range. Although strongly trending markets can continue in an overbought condition for some time, a convergence of those three indicators in early November heralded a 4 percent correction. □

Russian 2010 oil output hits post-Soviet record

MOSCOW – Russian oil output rose by 2.2 percent in 2010 to a record 10.1 million barrels per day (505.193 million tonnes) as higher prices prompted the world's top oil exporter to ramp up production at its greenfield sites. The growth in crude production surprised many analysts, who had expected 1.1 percent on average, when polled just before the start of 2010.

Energy Ministry data on Sunday showed the country extracted 10.145 million barrels per day last year, a record since the collapse of the Soviet Union, up from 9.93 million bpd in 2009 and 9.78 million bpd in 2008.

The government said last month it expects oil output to edge down this year.

Non-OPEC member Russia was the only country to produce more than 10 million bpd of oil last year as oil prices, which reached a 26 month-high above \$90 per barrel, stimulated higher output.

The output of Saudi Arabia, the second-biggest producer, has been 8.25 million bpd during recent months, reflecting production quotas introduced by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in December 2008 to boost falling crude prices.

Russian pipeline oil exports stood at 4.37 million bpd in December, bringing the annual average exports in 2010 to 4.29 million bpd, up from 4.24 million bpd in 2009 and 4.19 million bpd. Exports are set to increase substantially this year as Russia began

scheduled oil shipments to China via an East Siberian link on Saturday, cementing ties with its energy-hungry neighbor.

An annual plan envisages the supply of 15 million tonnes (300,000 barrels per day). Many oil market participants expected it would effectively double Russian sales to China.

One of the main obstacles for Russian oil output growth are heavy taxes in the industry, the main contributor to the government which is trying to plug a budget deficit.

The Economy Ministry expects production to edge down to 504 million tonnes (10.122 million bpd) in 2011, while Rosneft, which produces over a fifth of Russia's oil, expects its crude output to grow by a modest 0.5 percent to 120.2 million tonnes.

Bashneft, owned by oil-to-telecom holding Sistema, which has been pumping oil at the highest rate among Russian firms, increased production by almost 18 percent to 14.15 million tonnes in 2010.

Russia's 2010 natural gas production increased by 12 percent to 650.311 billion cubic meters (bcm), year-on-year, or 1.78 bcm a day, as the world economy picked up. That's below gas production in the U.S., the world's top natgas producer, which pumps over 2 bcm a day (over 70 billion cubic feet), on the back of increased gas extraction from layers of shale, a modern technology employed several years ago. □

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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Lethal bird flu confirmed in S.Korea wild duck



SEOUL – One of five wild ducks found dead in South Korea this week was confirmed Saturday to have been infected with a lethal strain of the bird flu virus as the country battles its first outbreak in over two years.

Tests showed one of the five dead birds found in Sacheon City on December 26 had been stricken with the H5N1 virus, the agriculture ministry said in a statement.

The same strain which poses a risk to humans has also been detected in wild birds and their faeces at four other locations across the country since December 7, it said.

South Korea on Friday confirmed the outbreak of bird flu and more than 100,000 birds have been slaughtered as authorities seek to contain its spread.

Two poultry farms, one in the central city of Cheonan and the other in the southwestern city of Iksan, were confirmed to have been contaminated, the ministry said.

Health authorities placed a quarantine

zone over a 10 kilometre (6.25 mile) radius, restricting movements of vehicles and people and carrying out emergency disinfection.

They have also stepped up inspections of wild birds and urged poultry businesses to take extra precautions such as erecting nets around their farms to keep wild birds out.

The avian influenza outbreak is likely to further strain the country's health system, which has already been struggling to contain swine flu and foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) cases across the country.

South Korea has been hit by bird flu three times, with the last outbreak in April 2008. In 2008, South Korea had to cull more than eight million birds to curb the virus, resulting in damages estimated at 200 billion won (194 million dollars at the time).

Four people were confirmed to have been infected with the bird flu virus in late 2003 in South Korea but they showed few symptoms, health authorities said. □

Type of Infant Formula Affects Weight Gain and Health

The type of formula fed to infants influences how quickly they gain weight, according to a new study. This is important, the researchers say, because rapid weight gain during the first year increases the baby's risk later in life of becoming obese or developing diabetes and other diseases.

Over the seven months they were studied, infants who drank formulas made from cow's milk gained 2 pounds more (0.9 kilograms) than those who drank formulas made from protein hydrolysates, which are designed to be easier to digest, said study researcher Julie Mennella of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. Because the formulas contained the same amount of calories, "we were surprised by the difference," said

Mennella, a developmental psychobiologist at the independent nonprofit research institute.

The study showed that, while many factors contribute to an infant's weight gain, there are important differences in the types of infant formula that parents choose, Mennella said. It has long been known that formula-fed babies gain more weight than breast-fed babies, Mennella said, and some had suggested that parents giving formula are less attentive than breast-feeding mothers to the babies' signals that they are full. But this study shows that there may be more to it.

A formula for weight gain? The researchers observed that infants being fed cow's milk formula drank more than those fed protein hydrolysate formula before they gave

signals of being full. It may be that the reactions in the intestines that come when the baby is full are triggered in part by broken-down proteins called free amino acids, and those free amino acids are far more abundant in the hydrolysate formula than in the cow's milk formula. Hydrolysate-based formulas are similar to breast milk in their level of free amino acids. While the difference in the infants' weight gain may be due, in part, to the difference in how much they drink, the free amino acids are likely to play yet-undiscovered roles, Mennella told MyHealthNewsDaily. Cow's milk formulas don't have many of these molecules. Hydrolysate-based formulas also have more protein than cow's milk formulas.



Formula based on protein hydrolysates are typically given only to babies who are allergic to cow's milk or who have a hard time digesting cow's-milk-based formula, Mennella said. Protein hydrolysate-based formulas can cost twice as much as cow's milk formulas. (Soy-based formulas are also available, but the study did not examine these.)

The researchers found that the babies fed hydrolysate-based formulas gained no more

weight than breast-fed infants; it was only those given the cow's-milk-based formulas who saw the accelerated weight gain during their first seven months. "We think it may be the free amino acids that help babies to regulate their hunger and satiety," Mennella said. The study was based on 64 infants, and the researchers accounted for the babies' weight and length at the start of the study, as well as their growth throughout the study. □

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Noord	587-0009
Sta. Cruz	585-4710
Savaneta	584-7000
San Nicolas	584-5000

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Polis	100
Brandweer	115
Brandweer II	582-1108
Tipline di Polis	11141
Hospital	587-4300

Oranjestad

Ambulance	582-1234
Police station	582-4000

San Nicolas

Ambulance	584-5050
Police station	584-5000
BGD San Nicolas	584-1606
Valero Security	584-1720

Services

Elmar	583-3000
Information	118
Kadaster	582-1311
Serlimar	584-6456
Setar	582-5151
Taxi	582-2116
Web	585-4600
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Reports of sea lion shootings on rise in Calif.



SAN FRANCISCO — The weak and woozy California sea lion found on a San Francisco Bay-area beach in December with buckshot embedded in its skull has become an all-too-common sight for wildlife officials.

Wildlife officials have seen a slight rise in the shooting of ocean mammals in recent years, and investigators often struggle to find a culprit. There are few witnesses to such shootings, making it nearly impossible to bring a case.

“We always try to do an

investigation, but unless there’s an eyewitness to the shooting it’s hard to make a case for our enforcement folks,” said Joe Cordaro, a wildlife biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who tracks reports of the shootings.

The NOAA said there were 43 reported marine mammal shootings in 2009 — nine more than in 2008 and 14 more than five years earlier.

Of the reported shootings in 2009, all were sea lions. And

officials say many more cases likely go unreported.

Wildlife officials say sea lion and human populations continue to increase, making interaction more common, especially among fishermen who compete for the same food and often view the creatures as a nuisance.

Though NOAA and the California Department of Fish and Game are responsible for investigating these cases, few cases result in prosecution. Recent public outcry over highly publicized cases like that of the wounded sea lion near San Francisco have brought more attention to these shootings.

Veterinarians at the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito are treating the wounded critter in the hope an aquarium or zoo will take it. The 7-foot-long male, dubbed Silent Knight by its rescuers, is now blind and cannot return to the wild.

When there is a witness, there usually is a case. A witness came forward after the 2009 shooting of a 650-pound sea lion nicknamed Sgt. Nevis was covered by local press and television.

Larry Legans of Sacramento was ordered to pay more than \$51,000 in restitution for the cost of treating the critter, who recently underwent plastic surgery at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom to close bullet holes in its muzzle. Legas also spent a month in jail and got five years probation.

Lt. Rob Roberts, a warden with state Fish and Game Department, said the agency takes marine mammal shootings very seriously, and noted that reports have increased in kind with the growth of the sea lion population along the Northern California coast.

Roberts hopes successful prosecutions and intense media coverage of cases like Legans’ will help.

“If the general public sees that there’s recourse and accountability, that’s a deterrent,” Roberts said.

The Marine Mammal Center, where Silent Knight is being treated along with hundreds of ocean animals suffering a variety of ailments, has treated nine gunshot victims in 2010. The center treated 18 in 2009, down from a high of 72 sea lions in 1992, when the center started keeping statistics.

While the number of mammals treated for gunfire wounds has trended downward at the center over the decades, in

recent years it has begun to creep back the other way, statistics show.

On Monday, more than 400 people came to see Silent Knight during the center’s visiting hours, fascinated by the plight of the wounded pinniped, said Jeff Boehm, the center’s executive director.

The center tries to help wardens in the investigations by determining the kind of weapon that were used and how long an animal has been wounded. For now, the center will work to try and get Silent Knight healthy, and ready to live in captivity.

“We’ve seen over 1,000 patients in 2010, and of that number only nine were shooting victims, a small fraction,” said Boehm, whose center studies and treats animals that have been injured by fishing nets, disease or environmental hazards like pollution.

“But it’s dramatic, because (shootings) are entirely unnecessary situations.” □

Buzz Aldrin Sues Over Image on Moonwalk Trading Card

Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the second man ever to walk on the moon, is suing the trading card giant Topps for using a photo of him taken on his historic moonwalk as part of a recent series of collectable cards, according to news reports.

After being unable to negotiate a licensing fee for the image, the 80-year old Aldrin filed a lawsuit against Topps in a Los Angeles federal court on Monday (Dec. 27), “contending that the trading card company had unjustly profited from his historic achievement by including a photograph of the Apollo 11 mission in a series of trading cards,” according to a Los Angeles Times

report.

The NASA image in question appears in Topps’ “American Heroes” series of collector cards, which was released in 2009.

Michael Kahn, the attorney representing Topps, claims the company’s right to include Aldrin’s image in the historic event falls under the First Amendment.

“Topps included Dr. Aldrin within the ‘American Heroes’ edition because it believes he is an American hero and is thus proud to be able to share such information with its audience,” Kahn wrote in a letter dated April 15 to Aldrin’s law firm. □

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Chile: sismo de 7,2 de magnitud no deja víctimas



Sismo de 7.1 de magnitud cerca de Temuco

SOURCES: ESRI; USGS

AP

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, pero ocasionando escenas de pánico y cortes parciales de luz y de telefonía, según la Oficina Nacional de Emergencia (Onemi). La Onemi calificó al sismo

como de “mediana intensidad” y dijo que afectó a las regiones Biobío, Maule y O'Higgins, en el sur chileno, el mismo lugar azotado por un potente terremoto de 8,8 grados el 27 de febrero del año pasado, que dejó un saldo de más de 500 muertos y 56 desaparecidos. El Instituto Geofísico de Estados Unidos indicó que el sismo ocurrió a las 17:20 de Argentina fue de 7,2, mientras que el Servicio Sismológico de la Universidad de Chile, señaló que el movimiento tuvo una magnitud de 6,9 grados en la escala de Richter y situó su epicentro a 147 km al oeste de la localidad de Tirúa, cerca de Temuco, a unos 900 km al sur de Santiago.

El director de la Onemi, Vicente Núñez, señaló a periodistas transcurridos cerca de 90 minutos después del sismo que “no hay afectación a personas, no hay afectación a bienes”.

El sismo ocasionó sí cortes

parciales de electricidad y el colapso de las líneas telefónicas, además de la auto evacuación de miles de personas de las zonas aledañas. “Hemos tenido saturaciones de las líneas telefónicas, cortes parciales de luz y la auto evacuación preventiva de la población”, señaló Núñez.

Reportes de la Televisión Nacional de Chile señalan que el movimiento generó escenas de pánico entre la población, que evacuó hacia las zonas de altura por el riesgo de tsunami, en localidades como Puerto Saavedra y Tirúa.

En Pucón, una localidad turística cercana al epicentro, la gente abandonó los supermercados y los centros comerciales y colapsaron las diferentes vías de acceso.

Las evacuaciones se registraron pese a que el Servicio Hidrográfico y Oceanográfico de la Marina chilena (Shoa) descartó un

alerta de tsunami.

El temblor fue seguido de una réplica que se sintió a las 18:10 locales (19:10 de Argentina), con una magnitud de 5,1 grados Richter. La Onemi dijo que los sismos no tienen relación con el terremoto de febrero pero el sismólogo Sergio Barrientos, director del Servicio Sismológico de la Universidad de Chile, señaló que ambos estaban relacionados.

“El sismo de este domingo es propio del comportamiento tectónico del país y no tiene relación con el sismo del 27 de febrero”, dijo Vicente Núñez, de la Onemi.

“Un terremoto de 8,8 genera réplicas por varios años”, señaló de su lado Barrientos a la Televisión Nacional de Chile. El sismo de Chile se percibió en varias ciudades andinas del norte de la Patagonia argentina, sin provocar víctimas ni daños, reportó la prensa local. □

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